breaking AWAY

Legend 2011

Breaking Away

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Portage High School
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Senior Elanor Bustos, cheers with the crowd while riding the senior float during the homecoming parade. *Photo by Taylor Kibbie*

Seniors Jake Dixon, Brian Barnas, Irving Hernandez, and Luis Acuna cheered on the senior girls during the powderpuff game. *Photo By Jillian Talley*

French Club stood in the cold, outside Walmart, to help raise money for the Salvation Army. Photo By Jillian Talley

Student Council treasurer, Senior Bernadette Fannin pied her brother, Freshman class president John Fannin during the homecoming pep rally. Photo by Jillian Talley

stereotypes

Sometimes it's important to go beyond what 's expected and **let go** of your stereotype. Maybe you joined a different club or **cut loose** at the homecoming dance. Whatever you did, hopefully you were able to **break free** from your expectations.

History teacher Catherine Nye demonstrated to her classes the history behind "Pattycake Polka" and "Virginia Real" dances. Photo by: Jillian Talley

Junior Ken Guerra and senior Elizabeth Guglielmetti pose at the end of the catwalk at the Prom Fashion and Expo Show. Proceeds from the event went toward Natural Helpers. Photo by Sarah Nadolski

Senior Erin Connelly and sophomore Ariel Caraballo work on projects during their painting class. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Students work on making coil pots after school for Art Club. Art Clubs allow students to choose what they want to work on. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Students practice a song during the mod 9 jazz band class. Photo by Ben Mathewson

rules

Some people believe that rules are ment to be broken. Rules make you set **boundaries** for youself. Rules **guide** students and staff in the right **direction** for the following years. Some students stepped outside of their personal rules and tried something different.

Senior Luis Acuna shows his school spirit by cheering for the senior girls during the Powder Puff football game. Photo by Jillian Talley

Spirit Week brings on 'Revenge of the Nerds'

Football, festivities, friendship, queens and a tradition that holds many memories; this is homecoming.

Spirit week is a week where everyone is full of energy and are too excited to do work in any of their classes, one week where students can dress like nerds and not get made fun of.

From new bleachers, girls Sumo wrestling and seniors silly stringing the underclassmen, it was a perfect way to stir things up.

"Homecoming is a time where everyone can be loud and crazy." *Allison Poznanski, senior*

Some students believed that these activities were the perfect way to make the week memorable.

"Homecoming is a time where everyone can get together and be loud and crazy," senior Allison Poznanski said. This years most favorable football player is, senior Jake Dixon, who won Mr. Football, while senior Brittany Doll was named Homecoming Queen.

"I really was shocked that I got it and I could not be more thankful for my friends and the opportunity," Doll said. Story By Kelly Holtzman

Senior and student body treasurer Bernadette Fannin pies freshman class president John Fannin after the seniors were announced the winners of the spirit stick. Bernadette and John are brother and sister. Photo by Jillian Talley

Members of the football team cheer on their fellow teammates during the tug-o-war competition at the pep rally. The football players lost the competition to their coaches. Photo by Jillian Talley

Seniors Jake Dixon and Brittany Doll smile for the student section after being crowned Mr. Football and Homecoming Queen during halftime at the homecoming game. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomores Scott Burian and Tyler Blair and junior Riley Thompson "superfan" while watching the October 1 homecoming game. The three painted themselves in red and white prior to the game. Photo by Jillian Talley

What was your 'Spirit Week Style?'

"I wanted to show school sprit and I have always wanted to be the mascot, so I thought, 'what the heck!'"

Anthony Byrom, senior

"I went all out with [my costume]. I play football, so homecoming week is a big deal."

Jacob Wirick, senior

How has the construction of the parking lot affected you?

"I'm scared to walk through the parking lot, because people are driving crazy."
-Christah McCready, 11

"I don't drive to school anymore because of the parking lot. The people who are allowed to drive to school should be regulated strictly because their driving crazy."
-Andrew Zilz, 11

"It doesn't really affect me because I go a different way. Although I hate it because so many people have almost hit me and I hate how fast people drive in the parking lot."
-Alyssa Knaga, 12

"The construction has made me late for work. I would like to see them make more entries and exits."
-Ashley Lesnick, 12

A line of cones, blocking off the exit of the student parking lot, has been knocked over by hurried students trying to leave the school. Photo by Jillian Talley

The extensive construction on Airport Road has lead to many frustrated drivers. A part of the construction process is the controversial 20 mph speed limit. Photo by Jillian Talley

This "Utility Work Ahead" sign is one of the many that have been placed around the entrances of the PHS student parking lot. Photo by Jillian Talley

These signs were added to the front of the building, a requirement, to help receive the accreditation process. Photo by Jillian Talley

Accreditation process a major deal for Portage High School

There have been many, but important changes around PHS that many people have yet to notice, or appreciate. All of those small changes are apart of one of the biggest processes that most people don't even known about. The accreditation process is an evaluation of the school done by an outside group called Advanced Education. These educators give the school a "grade" based on different categories, full accreditation being the highest possible grade.

"We got full accreditation, only six percent of schools get it!" says Assistant Principal Michael Spangna.

"We got full accreditation, only six percent of schools get it!"

The process of accreditation is all about self-reflection; the school gives itself an evaluation and then Advanced Education comes in and verifies the schools claim. If you think the school accrediation is not important, or has nothing to do its students, you could not be more wrong. Colleges look for accredited schools with a good score.

The process of accredidation may sound easy, but there is a lot more to it then that. The two day process involves over 200 people, and is very time consuming. When students are asked where they go to high school, they should be proud to say that they go to the highly accredited Portage High School.

Story by Kaite Mendez

There is always another step to take

This years Fall Play was called, "Up the down staircase." It was about a teacher coming to a troubled school with many challenges ahead of her that she had to face.

A lot of the students in the play were impacted from their characters and could relate, because they are in highschool.

"I grew up in a school that was racist where there were not many black kids, and I could relate to some of the feelings of my character," Anthony Byrom said.

"This play really made an impact on confidence and made me a more outgoing person. I feel comfortable and i'm looking forward to future plays." Emily Dominuoez said.

"This play really made an impact on my confidence and made me a more outgoing person. I feel more comfortable and I am looking forward to future plays," Emily Dominuoez said.

The fall play is a great way to open kids up and let themselves just go and see what they can learn. "my favorite part of the play was at the end, i realized how many friends i had made, that i never knew."

Story by Kelly Holtzman

Senior Nichalus Worman and junior William Wilkinson participated in the schools fall play, "Up the Down Staircase," and roled played students in a classroom. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Junior Morgan Jackson played the lead role in this years fall play, "Up the Down Staircase.'" Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie.

Senior Kayla Turner and Junior Courtney Mason sat in school during the fall play, "Up the Down Staircase." Photo by Melisa Deavers-Lowie

Senior Eric Curbow sat and listened as he played a student in this year's fall play "Up the Down Staircase." Photo by Melisa Deavers-Lowie

What was your favorite line and why?

"I like the way you handled the boy who came in late, the one with the toothpick in his mouth. It was my favorite because it portrayed Joe Ferone very well in his description,"

-Billy Wirth, 12

"Life was happening here. It was my favorite line, because it was the one hardest for me to deliver as far as timing, because the play was just that, it represented life, the troubles and comedy found in everyday situations,"

-Simone Ingram , 12

What did you enjoy most about the dance?

"I enjoyed spending time with my friends and my girlfriend. I also enjoyed five pineapple stars."

-Billy Wirth, 12

"Setting up the dance, it was really fun."

-Diana Bernal, 12

"Seeing my boyfriend dance for the first time."

-Katie Peksemak, 11

"I enjoyed getting ready with all my friends and seeing everyones dresses."

-Rachel Santos, 11

"I thought the decorations, music, and pictures were a lot better this year. I had a lot of fun."

-Arielle Cummings, 11

"Slow dancing with my boyfriend!"

-Jessica Hart, 9

Students at winter formal "charlie brown" to the Cha-cha Slide. The "Cha-cha Slide" is one of the more popular songs that played at the school dances. Photo by Taylor Kibble.

Seniors Sam Puchalski and Nathan Johnston did the "can-can" while at the winter formal. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Senior Luis Acuna line danced down an energetic crowd of students durning the winter formal. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Seniors Bernedette Fannin, Samantha Loza, and junior Crystal Fuller formed a conga line at the winter formal. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Hand in hand at theWinter Wonderland

It is not everyday students get to dress up nice and go out to party with all of their friends and it is only once every year that winter formal happens. Walking through the doors of Woodland Park's Banquet Hall was like walking into a winter wonderland, which was this years theme for the dance.

The dance may have been held at its usual place, but it was anything but typical.

"I thought the decorations, music, and pictures were a lot better this year. A lot of new features were added for this years dance, such as decorative lights on the floors and Edable Arrangements, which seemed to please many of those who attended," said junior Arielle Cummings.

The night was meant for dancing, laughing, and hanging out with friends in a safe and fun envornment.

"I was very excited to go to the dance this year. I enjoyed being with all my friends, and just creating more memories for my senior year," said senior Kayla Mills.

All in all, student council did a great job of creating unforgetable memories for their peers. Story by Kaite Mendez

It's raining talent for the boy's of Outstanding Young Man

Outstanding Young Man is a competition where all senior boys, who are brave enough, can strut their stuff on stage in front of a full audience of cheering family and friends. Although many participate in OYM just for fun, the main purpose of the competition is to award the most 'Outstanding' competitor their well deserved scholarship package.

"I chose to do OYM because all of my friends were doing it, and I was not going to do it until they all signed up for it," this years winner senior Jacob Dixon said.

"I did it to step out of the usual rhythm of things and to do something new," Kevin Hinkle, 12

All of their hard work and dedication to learning their speeches and dance steps paid off in the end, when they pulled off a fantastic performance.

"I did it to step out of the usual rhythm of things and to do something new," says senior Kevin Hinkle.

Certainly the many memories brought out by the annual OYM competition will be ones to treasure for many years to come. Story by Kaite Mendez

Seniors Eric Curbow, Parth Patel, David Ybarra Kevin Hinkle, Allen Barrett dance to, *It's Raining Men*, during OYM. Photo by Jillian Talley

The boys of OYM perform a group talent during the program. They sang the song *Wonderwall* by Oasis. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Zachary Vaughn poses at the ending of the physical segment during OYM. Photo by Jillian Talley

Seniors Eric Curbow,Tristian Pearman, Nathan Johnston, Micheal Brunner, Jake Wirick, Zachary Vaughn, Brian Barnas, Jake Dixon, Kevin Hinkle, and Sam Puchalski dance to, *It's Raining Men*. Photo by Jillian Talley

Talk to me:

What was your favorite part of outstanding young man?

"Doing the dance, because I got to bust my moves and show this school what I have."
-Brian Barnas, 12

"Dancing, because it was fun."
-David Ybarra, 12

"Chilling with all of the guys, because it was crazy and a great atmosphere."
-Tristan Pearman, 12

"Hanging out with all of the guys and rehersehals werethe best, because everyone was weird and goofy and added their own commodery to the show."
-Jake Dixon, 12

"A lot of my friends were doing it, so it was a good way to spend my time."
-Sam Puchalski, 12

How do you prepare yourself before going on stage?

"Try not to stress out. Avoid thinking negative."
-Ashley Sass, 11

"Basically, just repeat before going on stage. Talent just comes naturally."
-Courtney Mason, 11

"I like to use lemons. I get sugar and lemons and just smash them down.
-Jahmil Crawford

"Practice what we are going to sing and try not to be nervous.
-Samantha Loza

"I think about the lyrics before hand to make myself not nervous and just breathe alot.
-Angela Buchanan

Senior Jahmil Crawford and sophomore KaSean Earley rapped to 'You the Truth.' Photo by Jillian Talley

Seniors Adrianna Coco and Simone Ingram act to 'Tyrant Revolution,' while in this years variety show. Photo by Jillian Talley

Seniors Jeff Craig and Parth Patel dance to 'Jai Ho,' during this years variety show. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Scottie Ershick plays his chello to 'Bruises,' along with junior Nikki ruiz plaing the keyboard. Photo by Jillian Talley

Breaking away from fear

"I never actually got in front of people, getting over my stage fright. My boyfriendDominick Canter and I played guitar and sang to ' The Bright Side," freshman Ashlee Showalterbaugh said.

Freshman Ashlee Showalterbaugh had a case of stage fright; that is, until she and her boyfriend Dominick Canter performed together at this year's variety show.

"I never actually got in front of people before," Showalterbaugh says.

The variety show gives all students the opportunity to express themselves through what they like best. This year's show consisted of more than seventy performers.

"I enjoy singing. Performing on stage this year was to make up for my grandma, because I backed down when I was in kindergarten. I sang to ' The Way I Am,' freshman Hanna Medina said.

The variety show is one of the most looked forward to events at Portage High School, and continues to showcase the talent of our school.
Story by Dana Haywood

Some students opt for a 'Staycation'

While some students stayed home for spring break, others embarked on new adventures. Popular places that most students went to were Florida, California and Texas. Many students layed out on beaches and came home tanned and relaxed, while others were burdened with the fact that they had to stay in their hometown. Though many students stayed home during spring break, they still managed to find ways to have fun with others.

"I went to London and to Dubai. I wanted to go up the tallest building in the world. It was Burq Khalifa Tower. I went with Mrs. Parker, we went through the end of march. It was great, super, and wonderful!"

History teacher Robert Parker added more pictures to his collection of slides, as he explored through London and Dubai over spring break.

"I went to London and to Dubai. I wanted to go up the tallest building in the world. It was Burq Khalifa Tower. I went with Mrs. Parker. We went through the end of March. It was great, super and wonderful," Parker said.

No matter where the students and teachers were over spring break 2011, all of them managed to have fun and were able to snap a few interesting pictures.

Story by Dana Haywood

Senior Sarah Overvall poses for a quick picture while on a hike on her spring break trip. Photo provided by Sarah Overvall

Social studies teacher Robert Parker stops for a picture with Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill in downtown London. Photo provided by Robert Parker

Seniors Maverick Miller and Zachary Vaughn lay out at Siesta Beach in Florida over spring break. Photo provided by Maverick Miller and Zachary Vaughn

Senior Michelle Figueroa visited the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas during her spring break vacation to South Padre Island off the coast of Texas. Photo provided by Michelle Figueroa

Tell us about your vacations

Where did you go? Why did you go there? Who did you go with? When did you go? How was your trip?

"San Antonio, Texas. To visit my dad, all by myself. I went for all of spring break. Going there is was really hot, but very fun."
-Jessica DeRose, 11

"San Juan, Puerto Rico. Went to Puerto Rico to just visit. I went with my stepmom and dad, for the whole spring break. Going there was pretty fun."
-Kalani Wadell, 10

"Malone, New York. We went to visit family. I went with my mom and aunt."
-Ali Johnson, 11

"Wisconsin Dells, just because, why not. I went with Marko Pekovic, Taylor Cable and my mother. It was all of spring break. It was just grand!"
-Haley Sansone, 11

"Zapata, Texas. I went to visit my family, by myself. I was there April 28 through April 4. It was fantastic!"
-William Wirth, 12

What was your favorite Prom Fashion Show memeory?

The Prom Fashion Show participants share their expierence of the once-in-a-lifetime night.

"Meeting people, it was a great expierence, and the clothes were sweet."
-Kacie McGuire, 11

"Being on stage, because I liked the feeling of it."
-Elizabeth Guglimetti, 12

"It was just fun getting dressed up, and hitting [the crowd] with the 'flex'."
-Kyle Dranchek, 12

"Dressing up to preform, that and getting sexy on stage."
-Mike Zimija, 12

"My favorite memory was getting to walk with my girlfriend."
-Cameron Eaton, 12

" My favorite part was having the students see me in a different setting."
-Troy Williams, Resource Officer

Junior Pablo Garcia and senior Kayla Turner walk together during the prom fashion show. Photo provided by Sarah Nadolski

Senior Ashley Brinnehl dances her way down the stage to show off her beautiful prom dress. Photo provided by Sarah Nadolski

Seniors Gerald Renzino and Megan Morris strike a pose at the end of the runway for the prom fashion show. Photo provided by Sarah Nadolski

Seniors Joshua Wright and Kiara Goshay broke out in dance as they made their way down the runway. Photo provided by Sarah Nadolski

Prom Fashion Show brings out the participants wild side

Prom is one of the most important nights for many juniors and seniors. One of the biggest questions for both guys and girls is what to wear. All the girls rush to get the latest dress trends, while and all the boys debate over which color tux to get. Well, prom shopping just got easier, because The Prom Fashion Show displays all the latest trends for hair and wear.

"Dressing up was fun, it was also fun getting to dance the walkway," says senior Cody Sult.

When partaking in the Prom Fashion Show, you have to be okay with two things; having people stare at you, and making a fool of yourself in front of a crowd of people. The first part of the program is all about looking your best, and showing off the clothing, where as in the second half anything goes. Participants busted a wide range of moves on the runway; any were from disco fever to the ' dougie.'

"The fashion show gave me so many great memories. If I could I would do it all over again." Said senior Elizabeth Guglielmetti.

If you are considering participating in the fashion show your junior or senior year, don't hold any reservations, because you won't regret a moment of it. Story by Kaite Mendez

What being a Natural Helper is all about

Compassion, selflessness, and the need to help others. These were the words that senior Eric Curbow used to describe this year's group of Natural Helpers.

Curbow, a staff member for the event, worked with six other seniors to host the annual event. About 50 students and teachers attended the three-day retreat, which was held in an undisclosed location.

The purpose of the trip was to help those who were voted most caring by their peers learn to share their feelings and be more open and trusting in themselves and others.

The retreat consisted of short lessons that were usually in the form of games and activities designed to bring everyone closer together.

"You will definitely become a lot closer to everyone who went."

"My favorite part of Natural Helpers would be clumping," senior Desiree Garnett said.

Those who attended the trip were offered the opportunity to hand over their cell phones and iPods when they first arrived. This way they could focus solely on what was going on around them, and disconnect from the world around them.

"At the end of the trip you might not be best friends with everyone, but you will definitely become a lot closer to everyone who went. It was a really amazing expierence," Curbow said.

Story by Kaite Mendez

Senior Claire Sanders and junior Joey Little enjoy a relaxing evening socializing with one another during the Natural Helpers trip. Photo provided by Claire Sanders

Seniors Samantha Loza, Kristen Ashby, Kendra Becker, Clinton Wright, Krysten Wilson and junior Shubhkarman Multani, act like 'kitty cats' during Natural Helpers. Photo provided by Samantha Loza

Members of Natural Helpers play an icebreaker game. Photo provided by Samantha Loza

Members of Natural Helpers pose for a picture on their way to an unknown location. Photo provided by Sabrina Scroggin

What was your favorite part of the Natural Helpers trip?

"Making bonds with the family that I had made there."
-Jasmin Sleaford, 11

"It would definitely have to be small group. We did a skit about how everone should be themselves and show their true colors."
-Eric Curbow, 12

"To be able to get to know people that I see in the hallway everyday, and to create new friendships."
-David Jercha, 11

"Clumping!"
-Desiree Garnett, 12

"Getting to know everyone there."
-Jessica Someson, 12

"My favorite part is when we got blindfolded and someone picked us and we had to trust them to walk us around outside ."
-Kendra Becker, 12

"An individual's self-concept is the core of his personality. It affects every aspect of human behavior: the ability to learn, the capacity to grow and change. A strong, positive self-image is the best possible preparation for success in life."

-Joyce Brothers

*What does **PERSONALITY** mean to you?*

"Personality is very important to me, I can't be with someone with a bad one."

-Olivia Forrester, 10

"Personality is the reason why the word 'what' gets changed to "'who'."

-Cody Spoolstra, 10

"Personality is something I look for first when it comes to friendships and meeting people."

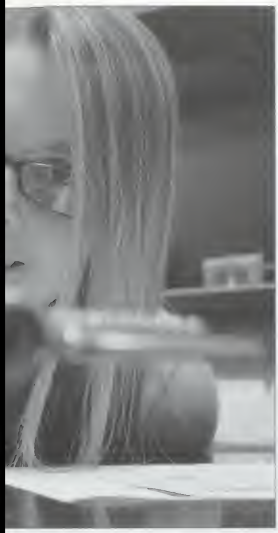
-Michelle Shafer, 12

"Personality is the most important thing, It's how a person is."

-Ryan Russel, 11

Seniors Briana Maddox and Clinton Wright wait outside the green room by the auditorium. Some students took on different personalities when they participated in activities through the drama department. Photo provided by Pow Wow

Senior Casey Newcomb senior shows off his personality just by his look. Newcomb loves to joke around and has a fun personality. Photo by Kelly Holtzman



Junior Taylor Bayer gets down and ready to learn before starting a lab in her advanced placement biology class. Photo By Jillian Talley

Senior Megan Barner holds her baby girl, Lilly. Lilly has shaped Megan to be a different person and changed her completely. Photo provided by Megan Barner

There's a litte bit of everything in personality...

Everyday people judge you. Off of looks, smarts, friends, the car your drive, and most of all your personalriy.

"Your personality depends on a lot of things, it depends on your surroundings, goals, peers, changes in the enviroment, and your personal life experiences," senior Megan Hammons said.

It's crazy that others help shape the person you are, and that you make friends depending on your personality. It all works together.

"I think your family and friends really shape your personality and the person you are and will be throughout life." *Rileigh Basich, 12*

"I think your family and friends really shape your personality and the person you are and will be throughout life," senior Rileigh Basich said.

Every little thing in life will shape and mold the person you are and will be.

Story by Kelly Holtzman

Arabian Nights leaves a lifetime of memories

Prom, to some, can be the definition of high school. It is that one special night where all the ladies can put on their best faces and dress up, and all the boys make sure they look suave enough for their dates.

"Prom is that one night where everything matters. Whether you are dateless or have a date, the fun that amounts at prom is awesome," junior Shelby Bryniarski said.

Each year, a team of student council members comes up with a unique theme for the dance. This year's theme was Arabian Nights, which they executed to the best of their extent. Some of the highlights of the dance were the lighted crescent moon that hung over the dance floor and the free photo booth that was set up in the back of the Expo Center.

"I tried to take a lot of pictures with my friends and did a lot of prom shopping, and even celebrated the year." Jackie Arnold, senior

"I tried to take a lot of pictures with my friends and did a lot of prom shopping, and even celebrated the year," prom queen and senior Jackie Arnold said.

The prom queen and king, Anthony Byrom, got quite the shock when their names were announced mid-prom.

"I was shocked and surprised winning prom king. Since it was my last prom, I made sure to dance and enjoy myself," Byrom said.

The one dance you do not want to skip out on is prom. All the time and money you put into it could be worth a lifetime of memories. Story by Kaite Mendez

Freshman Keanna Crum and juniors Ali Johnson and Jillian Talley stand together prior to prom to take pictures inside, due to rainy weather outside. Photo provided by Jillian Talley

Juniors Marko Pekovic, Christian Garcia, Tom Duff and seniors Maverick Miller, Ke'Andre Witcher and Casey Newcomb pose for a quick picture after being coronated as the junior and senior boys prom court. Photo by Jillian Talley

Decorations for the 2011 prom help at, the Valparaiso Expo Center, were set up by the junior class in student council. Photo provided by Jessica DeRose

Senior prom queen Jackie Arnold and senior prom king Anthony Byrom share their slow dance together. Photo by Jillian Talley

How did you celebrate your post prom?

"Chill with my girlfriend Mari Medina."

-Travis Pride, 12

"Chill with my friends, good times. Wisconsin Dells or Kalahari with my girlfriend Rachel Gilliam."

-Ke'andre Witcher, 12

"Going to Indiana Beach with my amazing boyfriend Jacob Glass."

-Heather Hastings, 11

"Going to a Cubs game with Tristian Pierman; also just hanging out."

-Haley Snyder, 11

"For my post prom I will be going to a Cubs game accompanied by my beautiful girlfriend Ali Johnson, Maverick Miller and Jillian Talley. After that we will be going to Dick's Last Resort, also with Zachary Vaughan and Noel Wiebel, for food and some good laughs. Finishing the night with a walk around the town."

-Casey Newcomb, 12

What was the first thing that went through your mind when you heard your name called?

The top 5 winners in the Distinguished Young Woman competition had this to say:

"I was extremely shocked. Everyone said my expression was priceless. It was unexpected and very overwhelming."
-Stefanie Nanney, 11

"Thank God! I am pretty sure that is my name."
-Morgan Jackson, 11

"OMG! My next thought was about my friends. It was real great."
-Emily Dominquez, 11

"I do not really know what was going through my mind besides smile, breathe and make it to the end of the stage!haha But my favorite part of the competition was hanging out with all of the girls. Many of them I did not know, or was not close to before Junior Miss. Plus it was fun to dress up every night."
-Kacie McGuire 11

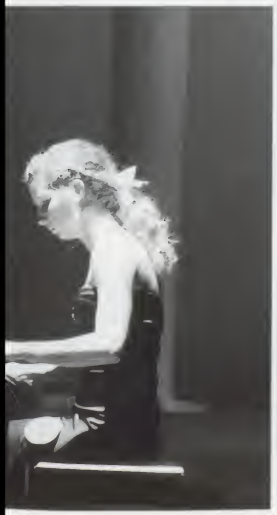
"I didn't know what to think, I was in shock. It was such an honor! The DYW program as a whole was remarkable and an amazing experience."
-Ali Johnson, 11

Juniors Aza Braner, Kacie McGuire, Michaeline Spencer, Terra Norman, Stefanie Nanney and Trinitie Oetman perform during Junior Miss as the top twelve finalists. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Erica Gaffney shows off her piano-playing talent by performing the piece "In the Morning Light." Photo by Jillian Talley

DYW 2011 winner senior Lexi Elisha hands junior Trinitie Oetman the spirit of DYW award for this years competition. Photo by Jillian Talley

Juniors Morgan Jackson, Ali Johnson, DYW 2012 winner Kacie McGurie, DYW 2011 winner senior Lexi Elisha, juniors Stefanie Nanney, and Emily Dominguez stand on the stage congratulating one another for placing. Photo by Jillian Talley



Distinguished Young Woman title renders winner, McGuire, "Speechless"

When junior Kacie McGuire heard her name announced as the winner of 2012 Distinguished Young Woman, she did not quite know how to respond.

"I do not really know what was going through my mind besides smile, breathe and make it to the end of the stage! But my favorite part of the competition was hanging out with all of the girls. Many of them I did not know, or was not close to before Junior Miss. Plus it was fun to dress up every night," McGuire said.

"I do not really know what was going through my mind besides smile, breathe and make it to the end of the stage!" 2012 DYW Kacie McGuire

Distinguished Young Woman gives junior girls the opportunity to win scholarships for college.

"I was extremely shocked. Everyone said my expression was priceless. It was unexpected and very overwhelming," junior Stefanie Nanney said.

For years, DYW has had a very successful outcome. During the competition the winner receives a $2500 scholarship, 1st runner up receives $1500, 3rd runner up gets 1000, 4th runner up receives $800. While other finalists and preliminary contestants receive $200 for participating. Story by Dana Haywood

ACES *Class of 2011*

Alexander Acosta and Lynn Wilson

Dean Anderson and Jeremy Swindle

Jeremy Anderson and John Kappes

Heidi Bilderback and Betty Turley

Eleanor Bloom and Kevin Giese

Ashley Brinnehl and Kara Rupcich

Abigail Clark and Amanda Isakson

Brooklynn Creech and Linda Peda

Sarah Davies and Tami Kepshire

Trent Doud and Robert Parker

Sydney Garland and John Zack

Valerie Keehn and Lillian Falk

Mark Kiley and Barbara Lochmondy

Samantha Loza and Jodi Barney

Christina Major and Ryan Kardash

Mayra Martinez and Heather Castle

Alexander Mischke and Brenda Nowosad

Megan Morris and Linda Parker

Parth Patel and Roberta Jocius

Natasha Pepper and Heidi Thibideau

Ashley Pezan and Candis Carey

Michelle Plance and Donna Wirick

Megan Price and Robert Kania

Joseph Rodriguez and William Bodnar

Michelle Schafer and Marcia Hobart

Amanda Thorn and Paula Wiese

Kyle Timmerman and Janet Smith

Kayla Turner and Marian Dick

Victoria Vaughan and Carrie Brown

Christina West and Kathy Shrader

Sarah Yingst and Sharon Blaszkiewicz

What was your favorite high school memory?

These seniors share their most memorable high school moments.

"Going to prom my junior year; it was quite the experience."
-Nathan Waugh, 12

"The musical was my favorite part. That and Katie Rose."
-Scottie Ershick, 12

"Freshman year when I broke a school clock."
-Brandon Smith, 12

"The day I got stuck in a display case."
-Jasmine Hernandez, 12

"Summer! That and Scottie Ershick."
-Katie Rose , 12

"My favorite high school memory would have to be rapping in the Variety Show."
-Megan Price , 12

"Going to morning practice to play floor hockey, because we didn't have to wrestle."
-Niko Martinez , 12

Seniors Megan Hammons and Kelly Williams slide down the slip n' slide while other seniors look on. The slip n' slide was put up as a senior prank on the last day of school. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Home-school adviser Tim Kunstek and his dog Prince, who was dressed for the occasion, watch as the graduates enter onto the field. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Casey Newcomb holds his diploma up in the air with pride, as he walked past his cheering family and friends. Photo by Jillian Talley

The class of 2011 stands and applauds as senior Gabriel Myers' mother Sophia Myers and brother Matt Myers accept Gabe's diploma on his behalf. Photo by Jillian Talley

PHS seniors take their final steps of high school

Graduation is a bittersweet moment for many seniors. While most are glad to be moving on with the rest of their lives, to suddenly stop doing something that you have done for the past thirteen years can be a scary and foreign thought. Senior Scott Ershick described his high school expierence as livid, vivid and fervid.

"It's a strange and exciting feeling. I'm thrilled to start a new beginning, but at the same time I'm going to miss my friends who are going away," Ershick said.

"I was like, 'Woah, this is actually happening!'." Senior Devan Rushing

While every student at Portage High School prepares for the day they graduate the moment they enter as freshmen, nothing can really prepare you for when it actually happens.

"The second I put on my cap and gown and walked into the auditorium full of my fellow graduates, I was like, 'Woah, this is actually happening!'," senior Devan Rushing said.

Whether high school was the best time of your life, or the worst, the important thing to remember is that it's only four years of your life, so it's up to you to write the next chapter and live how you want. Story by Kaite Mendez

1. Senior Rachel Foreman helped keep the enviornment green by participating in recycling club.

2. Juniors Carson Snyder, Shuubhkarman Multani and senior Meagan West gathered around after school to collect food for the needy.

3. Senior Kayla Turner performed during sercret pal.

Photos by Jillian Talley

Brea

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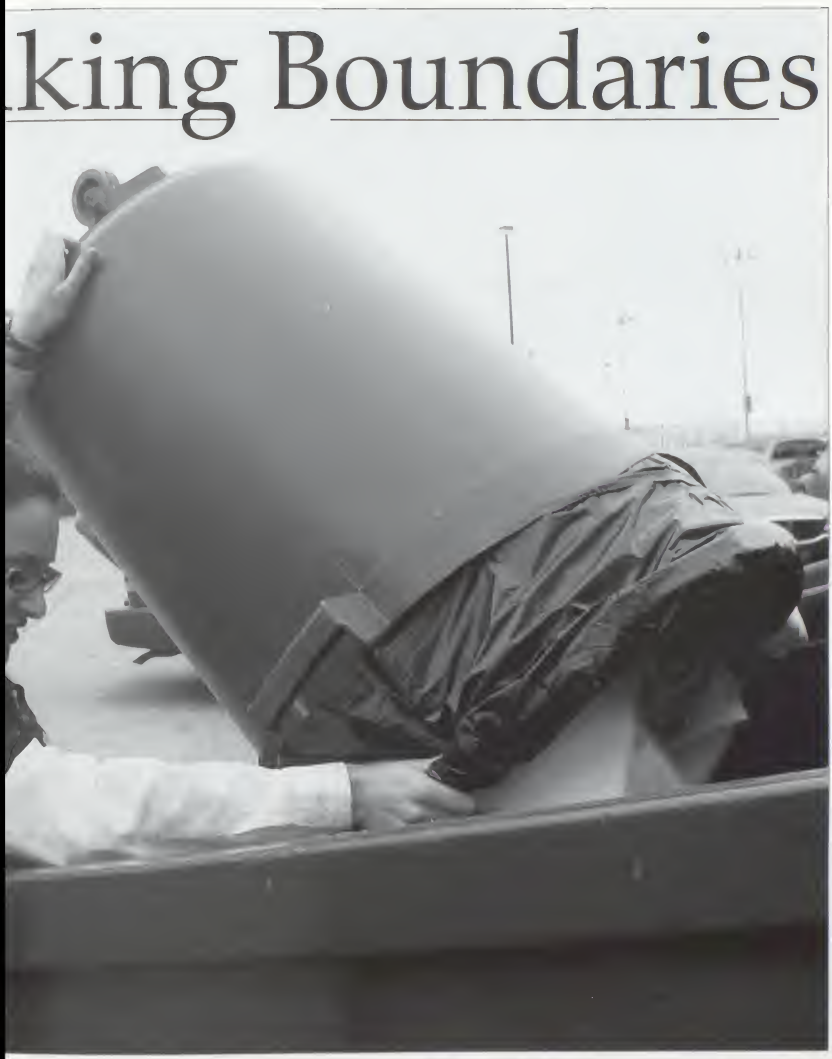


BPA prepares students for the world of business planning

BPA (Business Professionals of America) is a club dedicated to district competitions. Competitions can vary from computer applications, keyboarding and group competitions.

"I was a part of state leadership officer team competitions of 12 districts presidents a six state wide officer. If you like business and are interested in business I believe as a freshman, sophomore and junior to abrade their horizons to do more things," senior District 1 president Anthony Byrum said.

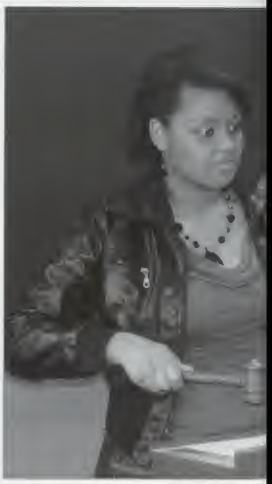
BPA is split into separate districts. Throughout the competitions BPA travels to Indianapolis IN, and missed two days of school.

"I won fifth in districts in order to go you have to go to meetings a pay your dues, you also can study things for BPA that doesn't always go with business," sophomore Evie Tsarnas said.

BPA is a chance to learn how to type memos, business letters, prepare for the real world and understand how the business world works.

"People join BPA because it is a good opportunity to get a business experience and learn about how business functions," junior Katie Engel said.

Story By Gigi Chavez



Tell me about BPA...

"BPA is really fun. We get to meet a lot of new people. Everyone should join."
-Katie Bylak,10

"BPA is a lot more hands-on with computers than most clubs."
-Karl Culp, 11

"People think that BPA is boring, but it is one of the most fun things I have done this year."
-Amanda Pogue,9

"BPA is about getting people interested in business to teach life skills."
-Anthony Byrom,12

Members of BPA smile and dance for a quick picture. Photo by Ben Mathewson

Junior Raven Blevins and her friend practice their speeches during a BPA meeting Photo by Ben Mathewson

Members of BPA take a group picture during one of their meetings after school. Photo by Gigi Chavez

Hard work = life long memories

Events upon events is everything that Student Council delt with. Through every event a charity was behind it.

"Student Council was pushing for more local fundraisers, traditions such as powderpuff and even a winter homecoming," student body president Eleanor Bloom said.

Student Council met every Friday and there was a great turn out with students coming together to help with many of the favorable affairs.

"Making sure our chairs are on time and getting things done is very complicated. Student council is very fun and I encourage everyone to join next year. I am going to miss my fellow officers," senior student body vice president Brook Creech said.

Although student council may seem like a ton of work, the students have managed to share a countless number of memories together and have enjoyed themselves.

"As a historian I document everything we do in 'stuco.' We put together a book of pictures and flyers from the events we have done. I am so proud of the people who have got involved. I've made so many friends in 'stuco' even though I have been in student council for years," senior historian Sarah Davies said.

Story by: Gigi Chavez

What Are The Hardships of Being Student Body President

"I felt that we had a really good year with Student Council. We have put together powderpuff, homecoming, winter formal, Insomnia, food drive and countless others. As president it is very hard to keep checking on all of the chairs to make sure the flow of the events are going well. I will always miss my big stuco office and my giant bulleton board."- *student body president Eleanor Bloom, 12*

From Powder Puff senior Eleanor Bloom and junior Nyla Owens face off during this student council sponsored event. Photo by Jillian Talley

Various members of the student council superfan at the varsity girls basketball winter homecoming game on January 28. Go Indians! Photo by Jillian Talley

Juniors Shubhkarman Multani, and Carson Snyder help during the food. The food drive is hosted by Student Council hosts a food drive every fall. Photo by Jillian Talley

NHS does what it takes to make others feel appreciated

The best gift to give for the holidays or any other time of the year is the gift of life. Every year Portage High School's National Honors society hosts the annual blood drive. The American Red Cross visits PHS in December to aid in the process of donating blood. This year over 120 students donated blood and felt great about giving.

"I felt good about donating blood because you can save three lives by just donating once and it is a simple process and almost painless," junior Rachel Santos said.

National Honors society helps the students, after having given blood, to make sure they eat a quick snack to help them feel less nauseous along with serving them drinks during and after donating. National Honors Society takes shifts to work the blood drive so those students do not miss out on school work, but this also helps them to act responsible and play a role for their fellow students.

This year the blood drive here at the high school was a success by having so many students willing to participate in it; students were even turned down, due to the fact that all slots were filled up.

"The process of having to wait till your number is called so they can check your blood and iron, along with answering forty-nine questions to help them determine whether you are eligible to donate blood may seem like a never ending process, but a couple hours is always worth it, if means you can save multiple lives," junior Jillian Talley said.

NHS also helps the American Red Cross staff and the nurses at PHS by helping the students with snacks and beverages. For every time a Red Cross staff member would have to go get a drink or set up the snack table, that would be more time for those donating to wait. This helps to not distract the staff and to get NHS members involved.

Story By Kayla Mills

What did you hope to accomplish joining National Honor Society?

"I wanted to make my school a better enviroment. NHS helped me exceed my goals this year. This was a great oppurtunity to help the needy. I take good pleasure in helping others."

-Parth Patel, 12

"Overall I feel the program is very prestigious and was glad to be chosen out of everyone who applied. I love all the fundraisers we do, it feels good to know I am helping people."

Rachel Santos, 11

"It's a change to give back. This helps us help people who need help the most. With the next couple years to be more grateful, I appreciate what I have to be able to give back to those in need."

-Shubhkarman Multani, 11

"Joining National Honor Society is good to help the community. It also looks good for college applications. Community based as for helping. NHS has made me grateful for what I have."

-Zachary Vaughn, 12

Senior officer Alex Acosta puts the honorary pin on junior Jordan Simmons during the induction ceremony. Photo by Melissa Deavers- Lowie

History teachers Catherine Nye and Jessica Muden put the pins onto students Clarissa Blazek and Zachary Vaughan for the upcoming season of National Honor Society. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Junior Kacie McGuire patiently waits in a reclined chair to get her blood pressure done. National Honor Society hosts a blood drive and invites all students to help with the cause. Photo by Jillian Talley

Energetic personalities attract students to Campus Life

Portage's branch of Campus Life broke away from student differences to enjoy a healthy energetic atmostphere of games, dancing, and outgoing people.

With all of the games and small prizes, from candy, just to the satisfaction of winning, there is not a single dull moment. The chemisty among the group is almost tangible.

"It is hard to explain, we are like family," senior Tori Dixon said.

Without a shy person in the bunch, making a new friend is as easy as showing up. After all of the fun and games, the group talked about the positive things in life, the importance of being a good person, and how to squash rumors. They also do their part in helping the community by raising money for local charitites.

This year they had the privalige to go on a three day winter weekend getaway trip to Michigan with rock climbing, skiing, and snowboarding.

With all of the excitement, friendships, and helpfulness, it becomes impossible not to love Campus Life after one meeting.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What's your favorite part of Campus Life?

"I love Campus Life because of the people. Everyone is so welcoming and fun; plus, you can be who you want to be and no one judges you!"
-Morgan Jackson, 11

Senior Jessica Gerstner and sophomore Emily Albee placed an alka seltzer tablet in their mouths already filled with water. The object of the game was to see who could hold the water in the longest. Photo by Tori Vaughn

Juniors Donald Twilla, Trinity Oetman, Scott Terpstra, and Aza Braner got judged after they participated in a spelling game at Campus Life. Photo by Tori Vaughn

Senior Rachel Foreman paraded around the commons with her letters after winning the spelling competition. Photo by Tori Vaughn

Words, words and more words

If spelling words was an interest during the school year, Spellbowl was the club to join. Practicing to spell words and compete in great competitions was a journey through the knowledge of words.

"In Spell Bowl, there is a big main competition," senior Jacquelyn Arnold said. "You get, like, 15 seconds to spell a word."

At practices, the students played games to help keep memory of each word. On some days, students would pick words throughout the dictionary as a form of practice.

"Spell bowl focuses on one special talent, and we compete as a group," senior Melissa Anguiano said.

Spell bowl participants also learned how to spell words from different languages.

"I'll remember when Mrs. Burke joined a competition we had during our meeting; we did better than her," senior Christina West said.

Story By Gigi Chavez

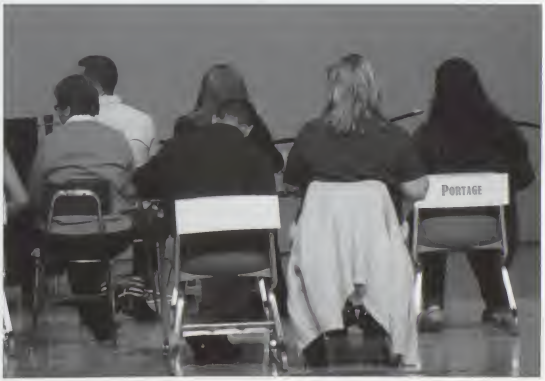
What Is Your Favorite Memory Of Spell Bowl?

"I will remember spending time with great friends and having the opportunity to hang out with them at every meeting . I encourage underclassmen to join, even if they feel like they cannot spell. It is a lot of fun."
-Christina West, 12

Members of spell bowl gather around to prepare for their next competition. Photo provided by Sandy Bukur

Members during their competition for spell bowl prepare for round four. Photo provided by Sandy Buker

Spell Bowl competitors sit on the stage and wait for their next word during a competition held in the Portage High School East Auditorium. Photo provided by Sandy Bukur



Superbowl participants focus on countries of Latin America

Political leaders, war paintings, myan math, lithum and short stories were just some of the topics covered under the Latin American theme in Academic Superbowl. Each team of science, literature, math, government and the creative arts worked separetly and uniquely to research their subjects.

"We did a lot of internet research and took a trip to Valparasio University to prepare ourselves," junior and government team member Shubhkarman Multani said.

The literature team also studied short stories as the science team studied exports of Latin America, such as batteries.

"Some of the material was hard to interpret, but we were very enthusiatic about our topics," junior and English team member Stefeni Nanney said.

Although not all teams could place as well as they hoped, the science and math teams placed first in regionals. The teams all experienced some loss as many vital senior members had to leave after the season was over. With its share of wins and losses in more than just the compitions, the academic superbowl members worked very hard to cover the vast material they were assigned in the short time they had to do it in.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What is somthing significant that you have learned from Academic Superbowl?

"There is a device on the computer that helped me interpret poems."
-Stefeni Nanney, 11

"To actually trust your instinct."
-Shubhkarman Multani, 11

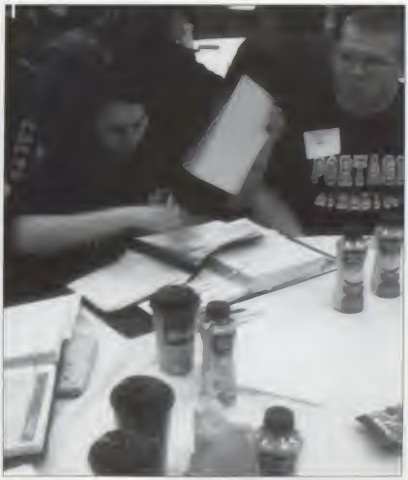
"Even though it may seem you have a lot of time, there's always more studying to do."
-Ken Guerra, 11

"We learned how to use the tangent button on the calculator."
-Robert Manning & Jeff McElfresh, 10

The academic decathalon team, in their last minute, review before thier state finals at Purdue Lafayette. Photo provided by Kevin Sayler

The math team of academic superbowl show off their ribons after their victory at regionals. Photo provided by Kevin Sayler

Seniors Chistopher Swier and Melissa Seinburg study for their big competition. Photo provided by Kevin Sayler



Science Olympiad warps into action

Students from all grade levels were granted the opportunity to compete in multiple competitions surrounding science. Science Olympiad competed at Indiana University for their fifth time. When competeting, the students are put to work to show up their opponent.

"Cody Spoolstra and I were talking about how we were thrown into a competition for Dynamic Planet at the last minute; we basically cut and paste things together. We ended up taking second place," senior Sarah Hensley said.

Science Olympiad had a good year with senior student body president Eleanor Bloom and junior Ken Guerra taking first place in Material Science. The majority of the students did their studying for competitions on their own.

"I joined because I really like science and Science Olympiad is a fun way to understand science. Without question, I plan to major in chemistry," junior Ken Guerra said.

Science Olympiad is the experience of hands-on science. Moving in closer and expanding scientific knowledge has a positive impact on the students.

"I was interested in the building events. I won first place in the catapolt. I am going to miss the team and hanging out with everyone. Science Olympiad is a lot of fun, but you have to put work in and not do it the night before. Take it serious," senior Billy Curry said.

Story By Gigi Chavez

Do you plan to join Olympiad next year?

"I competed in astrology, ecology and game on; we had to build a video game. I came in fourth place. I definitely plan on joining next year." Jimmy Spence, 10

Seniors Billy Curry and Parth Patel compete in the mousetrap event. "I'm going to miss my senior class mates, all my fans and lovers," senior Parth Patel said. Photo provided by Heather Castle

Curry and Patel work to set up their invention for the mousetrap event. Photo provided by Heather Castle

A judge takes a look at Curry and Patel's project during the mousetrap event. Photo provided by Heather Castle

Speech team works hard for its second full season

With its creative and academic aspects, speech team competed in their second season after a decade long hiatus. They did well to place fifth in the county with only seven members. This was their first year since they have reassembled that they have received a trophy. Unfortunately they could not advance on to sectionals which also meant giving up finales as well, due to scheduling conflicts among the members.

"We hope to increase in numbers so we can go to more competitions for a better season," said junior Brad Lafta.

The speech team is one that worked hard to achieve success and recognition. They received one on one session and great encouragement from the coach Stacy Bachman and professional speech coaches as well.

"We all pitch in and help each other grow with constructive criticism," said senior Simone Ingram.

As a whole, the team worked hard to get where they were with the small team they had. They were not ones to give up when they felt discouraged and put their brains to hard work.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What are your thoughts on speech team?

"Speech is so much more than just words, it's creativity."
-Simone Ingram, 12

"I was suprised to see what I was capeable of."
-Xavier Rogers, 10

"It's such a fun enviornment for everyone."
-Sydney Yingst, 10

"Mrs Bachman gives us good advice and has been encouraging from the start."
-Adrieanna Davis-Coco, 12

Sophomore Xavier Rogers prepares for an improtu speech in one minute. Rogers presented his short improtu speech for the club. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Nikola Raskova presents her speech with fantastic emotion during speech club. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomore Mikaela Terry, with great expression, performs a new speech in front of the speech team for the first time. Photo by Jillian Talley

YAR gets opportunities to meet well- known authors

YAR (Young Adult Readers) is a club dedicated to reading. YAR promotes reading and having fun with reading. Not only did YAR get down in the novels, but they also went to Chicago, IL to visit some of their favorite authors. The authors that were met were authors of the novels YAR had chosen to read. In past years members of YAR have met Stephenie Meyer the author of "Twilight" and the Twilight Sagas. With a fresh new start, YAR met author Cassandra Clare, the writer of "City of Bones."

"YAR is a fun experience. My favorite moment of YAR was the Cassandra Clare signing. There was an inside joke that was said and we all got it," junior Ken Guerra said.

YAR hosts well organized book fairs to raise money for the books that they wish to read in the future. After and during meetings YAR got into discussions about the novel. YAR is a positive club promoting reading and fun.

"My favorite novel we read was '*13 Reasons Why*,' by Jay Asher. Taking the train to Chicago to meet and talk to authors was great. My favorite was the Cassandra Clare signing," senior Elizabeth Guglielmetti said.

What is your favorite genre of book?

"Horror, I like scary stuff."
-Sarah Hensley, 12

"I like a lot of books, anything from realistic to fantacy."
-Mariah Pol, 12

"I like fantacy, because you read stories of things that don't happen in real life."
-Mayra Martinez,12

"My favorite genre is classical because they're timeless and reaches everyone."
- Ken Guerra, 11

Young Adult Readers listen to Cassandra Clare speak about her book titled Clockwork Angel. Photo provided by Heather Castle

Senior Mariah Pol and junior Kennenth Guerra get a close up with authors Marr and Armstrong. Photo provided by Heather Castle

Members of Young Adult Readers host a raffle in which the winner gets an autographed book by the author, Becca Fitzpatrick. Photo provided by Heather Castle

Not so different after all

Different is good and different is unique. In Diversity club every member is diverse in their own way. There is no judgement or shyness about this club. An ordinary day starts with an introduction of every member. Each member stated his or her name and how they felt about their day. Every members feelings were taken to heart.

"Diversity club is one big family we are always positive , we love to eat and share. We are always welcoming to others," sophomore David Arroyo said.

Diversity club joined with another fellow club GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance). Diversity teamed up and supported Freedom to Marry which is a rally for couples who cannot marry.

"We do activities with GSA and made tee-shirts for the day of Silence (an annual day of protest for the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students)," sophomore Katrina Fuller said.

President Kyra Fuller organized events for the club. Diversity organized skits at elementary schools promoting anti-bullying." The members all worked together to keep meetings orderly," Senior club president Kyra Fuller said.

Diversity also organized a exchange with East Chicago to see how things run at their school. Portage Diversity club also welcomed East Chicago students to see how Poratge runs.

"The most complicated thins about Diversity is staying on task. We always have so much fun. Community service work also brought us together even more. We would make the most and have the most fun," senior club president Kyra Fuller said.

Story By Gigi Chavez

What is your favorite part of Diversity club?

"My favorite part of Diversity club is meeting new people. Students should join the club and not be afraid of judgement, others might judge and make fun of but Diversity club doesn't. Every single person is different they're are different genders, skin colors and voices. I will always remember how diverse Diversity club is."

-Historian, Crystal Fuller, 11

Juniors Breeanna McCollum, Courtney De'Ann Payne and senior Kyra Fuller sit around in a circle during diversity club to discuss upcoming events. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Members of Diversity club pose for a picture during one of their meetings. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Juniors Courtney De'Ann Payne, Crystal Fuller and senior Kyra Fuller sit and help debate what is going to happen at next weeks diversity meeting. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Students step up to recycle, help save the community

Recycling Club is unlike any other club at Portage. Few organizations out there better the community and offer benefits to the people without expecting anything in return. Students that stay after school to help recycle put in a lot of time and effort.

"Staying after being able to help out for only an hour or so makes you feel good about what you have done. Especially knowing that it will not benefit just one person," senior Justin Grzelak said.

Many students want to be involved in a club or organization but they are lost as to what to be in. There are multiple options out there, so it is harder to make a decision. However, some people try to pick a random club and give it a try and others say they want to put in effort that will help other people out.

"I like being involved with a group that has some of the same interest as me," senior Justin Grzelak said.

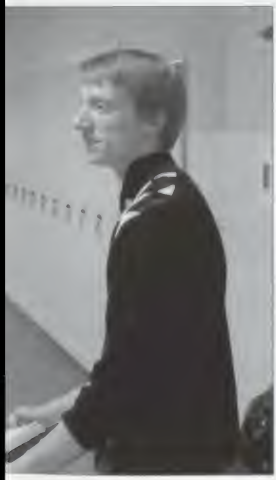
Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone and meet new people. Whatever club you join, there will be someone with the same thoughts as you, such as helping the community. So go for it!

Story by Kayla Mills

What does Recycling Club have to offer to the Portage community?

"In this club I can make a difference in the world by saving the environment, one piece of paper at a time."
-Ken Guerra, grade 11

Junior Abagail Traderm and seniors Billy Curry and Rachel Foreman stay after school to participate in Recycling Club on a Thursday afternoon. Photo by Flo Frenzel



Seniors Justin Grzelak and Billy Curry roam the second floor to see if they accidentally missed any teacher's recycling bin. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Senior Billy Curry empties one of the many full recycling bins into the large cans so they can easily empty it in to the large recycling dumpster. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Environmental Club helps clean up the world

Living in breathable air is somewhat of an ideal when it comes to the earth. The bluest water, the brightest sky and the greenest scenery. The earth is surrounded by the beauty of color, though pollution and waste can start to turn things dim. This is when Environmental Club jumps to the rescue.

"We adopt a beach; it is a continuation of past years. When adopting a beach we clean up the beach. We are trying to plan more opportunities out so we can help out more. My favorite part is being able to help out the environment," junior Jessica Sanders said.

Environmental club went straight to the source by educating, giving a hands-on approach and helping the world. Environmental club has worked with marine life, forestry and organisms.

"I would like to be a biologist; they work with aquatics. Being involved with environmental club you get to connect with nature and help everyone," junior and club president Cody Grzelak said.

Once a year. the club meets with surrounding schools to compete in Indianapolis. The students compete for scholarships and the questions they are asked deal fully with nature and the environment.

"Hanging around with everyone is a memory. We have spent one hour cleaning up the beaches. I possibly would like to make a career Marine biology is my favorite part," junior and club treasurer Nick Komoscar said.

Story by Gigi Chavez

What Activities Did You Volunteer For?

"We have taken two to three trips to the beach, Envirothon, and the pumpkin patch. I joined Environmental Club because I thought it was fun to hang out with all my friends. I encourage underclassmen to join Environmental Club because you will gain many memories with friends."

Peter Banczak, 11

Junior Jessica Sanders contributes to environmental club by recycling to reduce waste. Photo by Jillian Talley

Juniors Cody Grzelak and Nicholas Komoscar help save the environment during environmental club. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Nicholas Komoscar dumps paper during Environmental Club one evening after school. Photo by Jillian Talley

Vocationals provide hands-on experince for future careers

With so many subjects from the culinary arts to video productions, to choose from, vocationals allow juniors and seniors the chance to earn college credits and experience in one of the many careers they may be interested in.

The students have the privledge to leave school for three mods when on their vocational to explore what many of them plan to turn into careers.

"It gets grusome at times in the nursing home, but I get to help people," senior nursing vocational student Davily Jarvis said.

The vocationals take dedication and hard work, as they put the students in the job and gives them real hands-on experience.

Although the vocational students love their classes, they do require some sacrifice.

"We don't get to see our friends as often because we are gone half the day," junior and culinary vocational student Ashley Sass said.

Vocationals are not ones to be brushed aside, for the students in them work hard, manage to balance their class work and make it an enjoyable experience for themselves.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What will you remember most about your law enforcement vocational?

"I 'killed' three people with a golf cart and intoxication goggles."
-Gabriella Rodriguez, 11

Senior Justin Grzelak studies promptly while working on his engineering project during his vocational. Photo provided by Justin Grzelak

Junior Rachel Santon does a side line report while senior Michael Zimija records it for their videos production vocational. Photo provided by Justin Grzelak

Senior Christopher Mathis and junior Esteban Olmo work together on the roof of their vocational house. Photo provided by Sandra Haywood

HOSA: A hands-on experience thats fun and educational

Interested in the medical field? Well you are in luck, HOSA offers as much knowledge as they can about the medical field.

This year, HOSA teachers Lynn Wilson and Rhonda Doane offered a hands-on experience that can never be forgotten.

"You need to pay attention, if you do not the learning can get difficult. We do more than stay in class all day we get to go on really fun trips," junior Tyler Albee said.

This year, the group took trips to Chicago to help those in need and donated money to various organizations. They also went on college visits to various schools, such as IUPUI in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana University Northwest in Gary, and Purdue North Central in Westville. PNC houses a cadaver lab and allowed the HOSA students to take a trip there to view the lab.

HOSA member and senior Ashley Lesnick said they learned a lot on their trips, but had fun at the same time.

"Our class all in all always has a great time! We're always laughing and joking about something. Although our class knows how to have fun we know when to be serious at the right moment," Lesnick said.

Even though the class was one to pay attention to, the group still found the time to enjoy themselves.

"We did a Challenge Ed day, and that was a ton of fun. I will never forget Mrs. Wilson's ' You know You know' joke!" senior Kevin Gibson said.

Story By Gigi Chavez

What occupation are you interested in persuing?

"I want to be a dentist, I just think that dentistry is cool learning about the anatomy of the mouth and about our teeth."

-Justin Suggs, 12

"I would like to go in the dental hygene field. Hosa is not very easy, but it's not very difficult. It depends on how much work you put into learning all of it and if you want to be successful in that specific field."

-Ashley Smith, 12

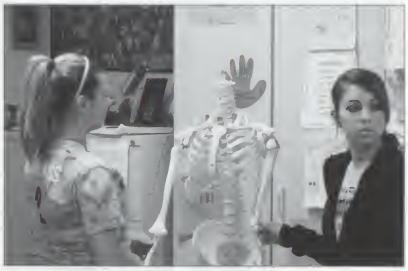
"I want to go into dental hygiene. It's good money, and I can help with people's appearance."

-Lazsher George, 12

"I would like to attend college and be a dental hygienist. It's a lot of hard work but I want to push myself. Also I'm a people person and making a person happy with their smile will make me smile."

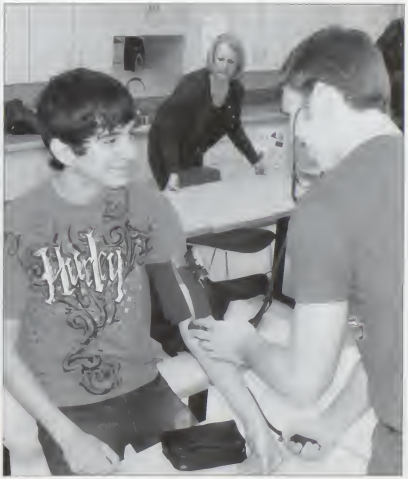
-Ashley Lesnick, 12

Senior Ashley Smith practices her dental skills on a fellow students. Students from other schools often travel to Portage to attend the dental vocational class. Photo by Flo Frenzel



Juniors Madaline Solis and Arielle Cummings look at and attempt to identify the bones on a skeleton. Solis and Cummings are enrolled in the morning medical terminology vocational class. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Senior Tristan Pearman checks junior Paul Gonzalez's blood pressure during their medical terminology class. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie



World languages and cultures celebrate as one

Forty one new inductees were added to this year's Foreign Language Honor Society.

The students inducted worked for three consecutive semesters, excluding their first year, to keep an A average in their foreign language class.

Each member was given a medal at the induction ceremony to wear with their robes during their graduation ceremonies.

"The medal we get to wear is a great symbol for our work we get to show off during graduation," senior Megan Price said.

Seniors Devan Rushing and Mayra Martinez were guest speakers at the induction ceremony. The previous summer, Rushing visited Spain and Martinez ventured off to France for a whole new experience with the language they had studied.

This year's lucky student to go to another country was junior Valerie Gregorash. Gregorash will be visiting Saumur, France. To have been chosen, Gregorash went through a test consisting of writing, reading, listening and grammar. She was also obligated to write four essays. Gregorash has taken three years of French.

Story By Taylor Kibble

A Summer in France

While in France for seven weeks, Valerie Gregorash will be taking language classes, visiting Normandy and Omaha Beach. Her last two days of the trip will be spent in Paris.

"It was a very long and difficult process I had to go through to be chosen, but definitely worth it."

-Valerie Gregorash, 11

Latin teacher Tom McKeowen speaks to parents and students at this year's FLHS Induction Ceremony. Photo provided

Spanish Teacher and head of FLHS Linda Peda lites senior Kayla Mills's candle during the induction ceremony. Photo provided by Kayla Mills

Newly inducted FLHS members pose for a picture with Spanish teacher and group sponsor Linda Peda. Photo provided

Spanish Club breaks out of the old and into the new

Fiesta, movie nights, music and more. You guessed it: Spanish Club was the host of these exciting adventures through Spanish culture.

"I joined Spanish Club because I have a lot of family that does not live out here, and being a part of Spanish club I feel like my family is always here with me," sophomore Nicole Thomas said.

Spanish Club has many social functions and activities to attend to and it is important to keep organized and updated with all the upcoming events. Senior club president Kelsey Santiago is in charge of helping sponsor Angelica Ramos with times, dates and celebrations.

"We were working on a lot of new changes this year. We have movie nights in Spanish or about Spanish culture. We also have fiestas and discuss other native countries on how they celebrate," senior Kelsey Santiago said.

Senior vice president Liane Cesare also works hard to help run meetings, get information together for certain events and comes up with ideas the club can put together to express their love of Spanish culture. According to Cesare, the club put themselves out there by hanging up posters and attending out of school functions as a group.

"Spanish club is a lot of fun, we dance to Spanish music at our fiestas. Kelsey Santiago and I danced together to the music it's funny because nobody else can really dance to spanish music so they laugh and enjoy the music. Spanish club is a ton of fun everyone should join." senior Liane Cesare said.

Story by Gigi Chavez

How was your experience being a member of the Spanish Club?

"This was my first time being a part of spanish club, I love the fiestas my plate is always messy and I love the music. I listen to it at home all the time."
-Cristal Garcia, 10

"I joined because my friends and I wanted to get involved and ended up staying, I like the atmosphere of all the people and food."
-Ariel Caraballo, 10

"Trying to learn about different cultures and different people was great! I joined with a lot of friends and got closer to them"
-Abby Berquist, 10

"Hanging out, watching movies, and meeting new people. My girlfriend is in Spanish club too, I invited her!"
-Paul Bylen, 10

Freshman Corina Ramirez designs her shirt for the homecoming game during a Spanish Club meeting. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomores Abby Berquist and Ariel Caraballo and freshman Noah Volk, enjoy tacos during a meeting for Spanish Club. Photo by Jillian Talley

Freshman Shannon Jones enjoys a delcious meal during a meeting forSpanish Club. Photo by Jillian Talley

"Je ne parle pas du Français," I do not speak any French

Some students may not have joined French Club, because they didn't speak the language. According to senior Alexandra Littke, French Club did not only speak in French, but they discussed things about French culture.

"I do not want anyone to feel afraid to join French, you do not have to speak French to join. It really looks good for college so join," Alex Littke said.

French Club president, senior Jorden Breezley, had to organize events for the club. Breezley stated that the officers were an important part of the club as well; they needed to stay organized and help with events.

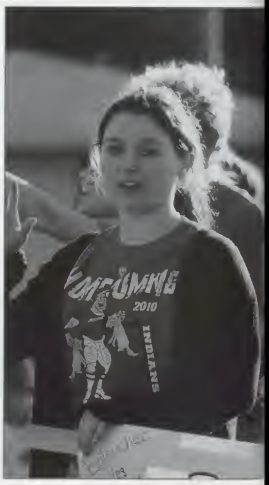
"As president I have to make sure the officers stay on track with what is planned out and things that need to be done whenever we hang out, talk about current events and personal issues," Jordan Breezley said.

The club was about more than getting down to business. The members jumped into action with going to the pumpkin patch, doing leaf raking, going bowling and holding Wii bowling competitions.

The vice president, junior Tess Moreland said, "that more club members from other foreign language clubs that participate in more then one club sneak over to the French side, because they are that awesome!"

"I will always remember having friends around, because of French. Our relationship is stronger. I encourage everyone to join," senior Heather Cheek said.

Story by Gigi Chavez



What is your favorite French Club memory?

"I'm always going to remember bowling against the Spanish and German clubs. We get so competitive with each other when winter came we played Wii bowling so we can still compete," Junior Tess Moreland

Members from French club take time out to bell ring over the hollidays to help raise money for Salvation Army. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Heather Cheek and junior Zach Spurlock march in the homecoming parade supporting Portage High School's french club. Photo By Jillian Talley

Freshman China Venson, Emily Stanley, Stephen Berridge and juniors Sarah Raber and Zacherie Spurlock pose for a picture during french club. Photo by Tori Vaughn

German Club explores cultures through trips

With sixty different members attending, when they could. German club was one of the most active clubs this year.

They found themselves absorbing the German culture when they visited the Berghoff resturant in down-town Chicago over holiday break. Not only did they listen to german music but they also explored their creative side by making pins with their favorite German quotes. They also compared German life to American life.

"They [Germans] have to pay to use public resturooms," sophomore Eric Konecny said.

Full of outgoing students, German club was one to break away from your normal routine and join.

"If you want to have a lot of fun, come join us," said sophomore Alex Schereier.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What is your favorite German phrase?

"Du bist ein unfall." (You are an accident)
-Timothy Kranick,12

"Deutsch ist prima." (German is great!)
-Chris Kranick, 11

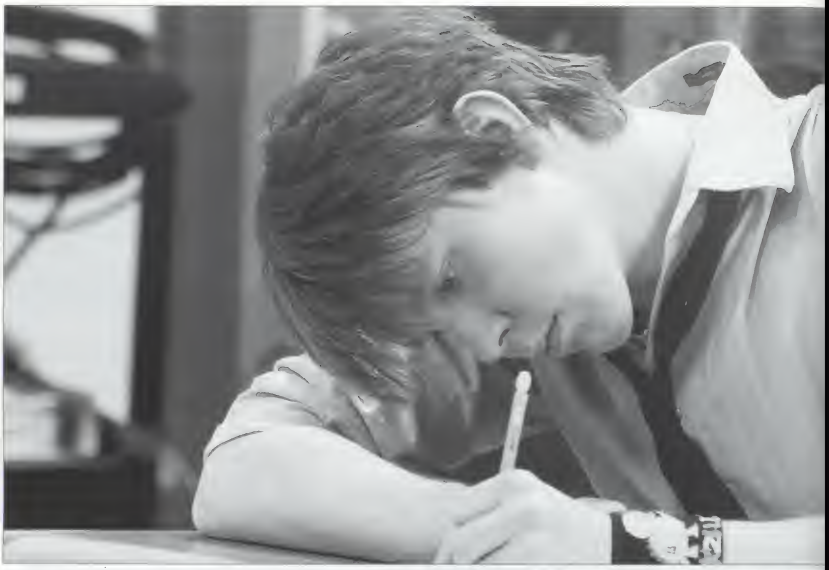
"Schuttel deinen speck!." (Shake your bacon)
-Alex Schreier

"Alles Gute zum Geburstag!." (Happy Birthday!)
-Jennifer Leary

Senior Meagan West participates during german club. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Freshman Mason Hooper did arts and crafts during german club. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Members of german club, participated doing crafts and planning for next weeks upcoming meetings. Photo by Tori Vaughan



GSA Gay-Straight Alliance brakes into the club scene

A brand new club was welcomed in to the new year, fresh and ready to go. Gay Straight Alliance is a club that appeared this year. In past years GSA was known as a support group. "GSA was suppose to be a support group this year with consitant people . I hope the club is allowed to run longer," senior Victor David said.

GSA is administered by Michelle Vuko. In the club, members scheduled gay proms and rallied up for anit-bullying at Unitarian Church.

"Mrs, Vuko is a very nice and open minded teacher. When you have a club like this it is best to have some one understand," senior Victor David said.

GSA's president Tiffany Cross organized many activites that occured in GSA. Freedom to marry was a silent protest for couples who could not get married. GSA was unstoppable at exercising rights.

"I am proud that we are very passionate about what we do and have participated in amazing causes. I am glad the club is going good and I can not wait to see how much it grows," senior Tiffany Cross said.

Story by Gigi Chavez

Senior Victor David, president of Gay Straight Alliance, made plans for future GSA meetings. David and senior Tiffany Cross collaborated ideas to be used at the next meeting. Photo by Jillian Talley

What do you hope to accomplish, being in GSA?

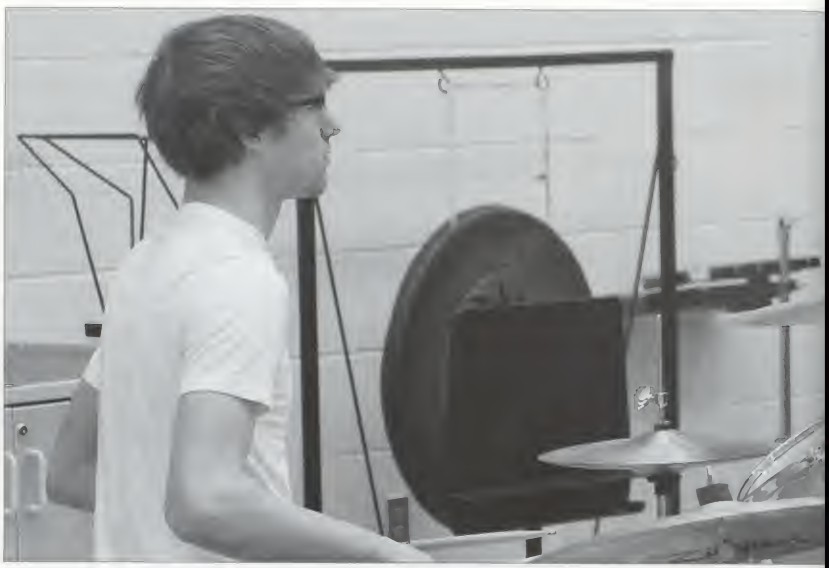
"I hope to bring acceptance, awareness, and knowledge about GLBT issues and history."
-Tiffany Cross,12

"I hope people will get over other people's orientation and bring acceptance."
-Wendi Pope, 10

"I want to help members of the LGBT community to gain acceptance an bring comfort to them and their peers."*-Valarie Gregorash, 11*

Junior Nathan Peek participated in a coming out of the closet game during a GSA meeting. Photo by Jillian Talley

Gay Straight Alliance members listened and watched, as fellow peers told stories about their sexuality and stories about their friends. Photo by Jillian Talley



Working together helps band classes make beautiful music

With more variety than most music classes, concert band is a great mix of instruments from percussion to woodwind. Teamwork was key for them to find and form a sound they found suitable for the competitions and concerts they performed in.

"Music is something you can put your heart into and the sound relies on everyone," junior Danny Wilkinson said.

Every year, as do all music classes, they had the opportunity to compete in the Indiana State School Music Association concert that they worked to the bone for. They had their choice of performing in a solo or an ensemble in front of a judge.

"The overall work of the students at ISSMA was a little bit better than usual," senior Richard Sneed said.

Sneed has been in concert band all four years that he attended PHS.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What do you love about being in band?

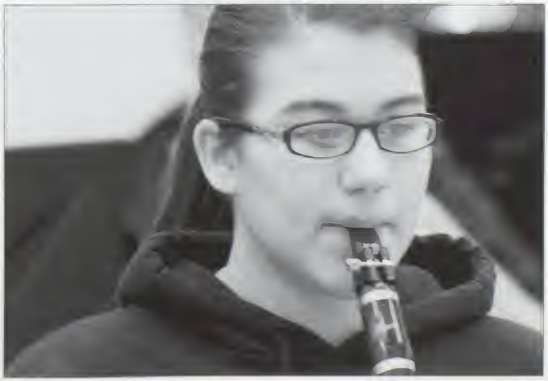
"Everything. You're able to express yourself and put a little of yourself into your work. It's a piece of you."

-Daniel Wilkinson, 11

Senior John De St. Jean practices the drums for Indiana State School Music Association durning class. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomore Desiree Perez practices her saxaphone during band class. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomore Regina Lopez practices her flute druing band class, getting for the up coming band concert. Photo by Jillian Talley



Orchestra allows students to explore new avenues of music

Although many may think of classical music as boring, Portage Orchestra is the opposite. Many students would be surprised to hear that they put their own modern twist on orchestra. they break away by using electric instruments, like a guitar, at their annual Zeta concert.

Portage High School's orchestra class is one that many of the participants have been with since the sixth grade.

"When you are always around the same people, you get to know each other really well and you just become friends." said senior Jimmy Rogers.

With the great classroom chemistry they cannot help but let the music take them away.

"Music is another way for me to express myself without words, it is really easy to get into it," senior Katherine Rose said.

Many of the orchestra students take private lessons for the instruments they play and practice for the school alone. Most practice sometimes up to fifteen hours a week.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What was your favorite performance?

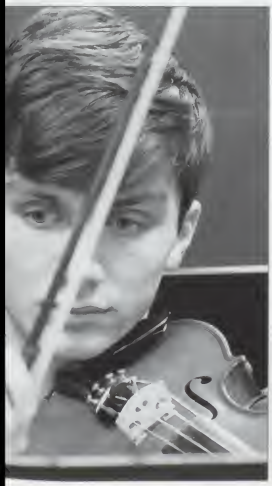
"Zeta Fest; it's like a rock concert."
-Raquel Galvan, 11

"Zeta Fest, because of the lights and electric instruments we get to use that we normaly don't."
-Kevin Crowe,

"Christmas concert, we play difficult music that everyone enjoyed."
-Alanna Mosell, 12

"Christmas concert; we played classical music that I really enjoyed."
-Daniel Coffman,

Senior Katie Rose prepares for ISSMA competition, along with other classmates. Photo by Jillian Talley



Junior Marko Pekovic practiced his violin during orchestra class to play for the next upcoming orchestra concert. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Michaeline Spencer played her violin while preparing for ISSMA along with other students. Photo by Jillian Talley

Choir Sings into the New Year

Musical pieces of all varieties were presented through concerts and competitions by this year's choir students. The choir's wide range of music varies from the 80's pop charters to up and coming radio hits. According to junior Lauryn Alyea, "a beginning day in choir started with fun energetic warm-up." Warm ups such as "Hida," tounge-twisters and the "ABC" song are just some of the vocal warm-ups.

"Choir is something fun to do, but do not take the class as a slack off. I love music and I'm happy to be involved I love trying new things and taking risks. This year I'm involved in advance mix," Alyea said.

Choir is not a behind the scenes kind of group. Choir also joins in with middle schools and elementary schools for seasonal performances. Holiday performance took place in December. Some of the songs covered this year were "Still, still, still," "Hallelujah choir song," "Deck the Halls" and "Fruit Cake."

"Hitting high notes is the hardest, rehearsals are important. We go over our music after warm-ups," junior David Papan said.

Choir is not only about concerts and competitions. Many bonds were formed behind every performance and rehearsal. The students come together with their common fascination for music.

"Being with my friends at all the concerts is something I will miss, and Mr. Regal calling it the 'Dylan Cairns show'," junior Dylan Cairns said.

Story By Gigi Chavez

How long have you been singing?

"I've been singing since i was in third grade. I do not have a specific feeling when I sing because it has its mood swings."

-Kyle Smart, 12

"I have been singing since I was in eigth grade. I enjoy being able to share my feelings and let go when I sing."

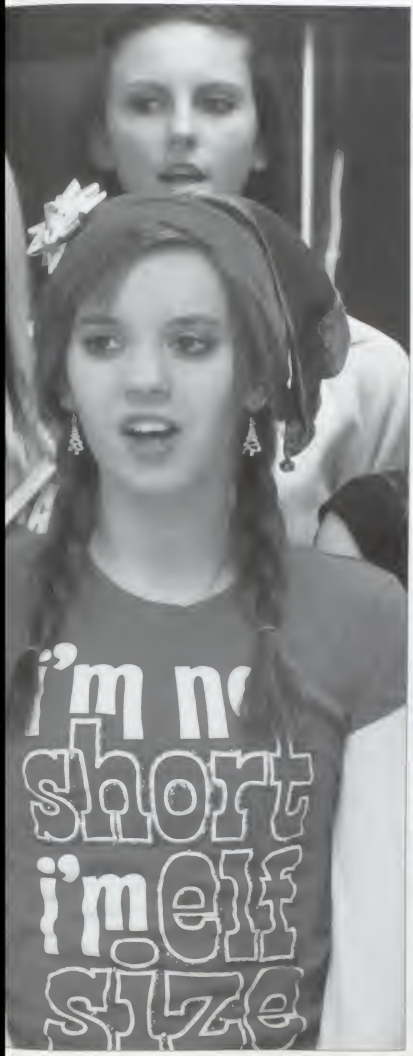
-Kayla Dearing, 11

"I have been singing since I was little I was not the greatest at first but I have gotten better I'm glad I'm in choir."

-David Burr, 10

"I have always enjoyed singing since I was in sixth grade, I plan to further my skills and sing throughout my high school years."

-Jamie Major, 9



Senior Choir student Briana Maddox joins her fellow choir students in carloing around school for the holidays. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Choir teacher Aaron Reigle directs his mod 2 choir class. The students traveled spent the Friday before winter break caroling around the school. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

The Intermediate Mixed choir performs at the annual Christmas festival. Photo by Jillian Talley

Marching band breaks the limits of the typical practice

The stands were full of Indian fans and the adrenaline was overtaking the football players. The sound that filled the air was the energetic sound provided by none other than the marching band.

Although the band provided halftime entertainment at the football games, they also had multiple practices throughout the week and participated in competitions.

"I like spending time with my friends and playing drums and percussion. The practices were long, we literally worked so hard. It payed off because we went to regionals a few times," senior Richard Sneed said.

The bonds between the band grew as they competed in out-of-state competitions. However, the members spent hours making sure their show was perfect.

"I will always remember when our director said ' one more time' it did not really mean one more time; it meant about three more," senior Tim Talley said.

Music competitions and performances are not the only thing marching band does. Pizza parties before competitions are also fun memories to look back on.

"Band camp is the most exhausting but a rewarding week in our lives. Loads of memories are kept," sophomore Tiffany Woloszyn said.

Story by Gigi Chavez

What are some of the new things that Marching band has done?

"One new thing we did this year was travel to Fegely middle school and preformed for the kids there. We performed to get them to join marching band when they become a high school student. One thing marching band has is funny people. Marching band is a huge montage of great memories. Unfortunately most of the funny stuff is the typical inappropriate high school silliness and probably cannot be reprinted in the yearbook."
Kyle Timmerman, 12

Senior Richard Sneed sits aside with his fellow marching band memebers during the homecoming game. Photo by Jillian Talley

Members of marching band played the fight song after a Portage touchdown at the homecoming game against Michigan City. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomores Holliann Faulkner, Drew Hayden and junior Crystal Woloszyn perform during half time at the homecoming game against Michigan City. Photo by Jillian Talley

Jazz Band on the top of their game

Jazz Band explores a wide variety of jazz styles such as Latin, swing, samba, hip hop and others. People have worked especially hard to get their songs down and still maintain a completely relaxed environment.

"We really stepped it up this yearin Jazz Band. It is not as easy as it looks," said senior John De St Jean.

The class is usually smaller than most of the other instrumental classes that are offered at Portage High School This class has the luxury of playing in their own festivals as well as other events helpd by fellow students in Jazz Band.

these students also participated in the Indiana State School Music Association, or abreviated as ISSMA, contest where both Jazz I and Jazz II recieved gold for their performances that they worked diligently on during rehearsals.

One of the judges at the ISSMA competition recomeneded them to submit a tape of their musical performance to the Ellington program located at the Licoln Center in New York. The only problem is the season ended. Every year students leave to further their education in college and unfortunatly this program will be even smaller next year due to leaving seniors.

"Most of us are seniors in Jazz Band, so there will not be as many students with the interest of Jazz Band left. Jazz is not a favorite among most students, but when you get involved in this class, you will have a much better respect for jazz as well as other different genres,"senior Dustin Edwards said.

Instruments used in this class included the piano, saxophones, bass, trombones and trumpets. William Timmerman and Robert Symer both direct tthis class and would love to let other students know that this is a great class to take. Story by Taylor Kibble and Kayla J. Mills

Is there anything you wish you could have done differently this year?

"I wished I could have done more shows outside of the school, they are a lot more fun."

-John De St Jean, 12

Senior Nathaniel Smock and Ben Dvorscak play the trumpet and are learning and practicing one of the songs that William Timmerman picked out for them. Photo by Ben Matthewson

Senior Marcus O'Reily plays the guitar during a practice for jazz band along with senior Jeff Webb who is playing the trumpet learning to play a song. Photo by Ben Matthewson

Seniors Nick Worman and Jeff Webb play the trumpet, rehearsing new music during Robert Symyer's mod nine Jazz band class. Photo by Ben Mattewson

Choraliers considers themselves 'a big family'

"I will always remember festival. We sang popular songs and it is a great closing to the school year. I have been involved with music since freshman year," senior Myra Martinez said.

Choraliers is a girl singing group who perfroms at public events around Portage. Choraliers consists of the best female singers.

"To be in choraliers there is an audition, dance and two songs to choose from. The auditon process is the same throughout the years and some of the graduated choraliers came to judge. The auditions were never competitive we are all a big family," junior Crystal Woloszyn said.

The choraliers girls have performed at secret pal, elmentary, and middle schools. they have also competed in solo ensemble. Choraliers competed at ISMA which is singing of small groups and everyone received gold or silver.

"My proudest moment would be when my barber shop cortet got gold at district and state," senior Kayla Turner said.

Choraliers is a complete girl version or Glee and the girls came very close together through every competion, performance and practice.

"I love the music, it has always been apart of my life. We are a big family, we watch after each other just like a family would," junior Jasmine Sleaford said. Story by Gigi Chavez

What was your favorite song to perform?

"Sometimes it was difficult learning new songs and dances but, And *So It Goes* by Billie Joel was my favorite cover. "

-Mackenzie Barcelli, 10

"I'm really proud of getting a solo in the song *Like A Prayer* by Modonna in the fall concert, Choraliers is like Glee but not that wide scale."

-Samantha Loza, 12

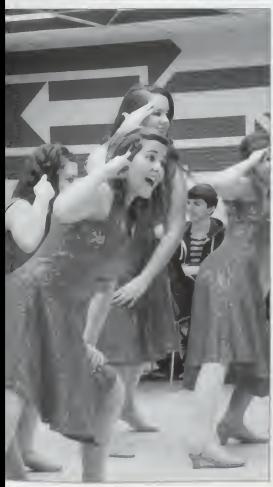
"My favorite song was singing *Like A Prayer* by Modonna and I really enjoyed singing and dancing with people who wanted to be there."

-Tiffany Woloszyn, 10

"My favorite song to cover was And *So It Goes* by Billie Joel the song is really pretty and is so mellow it just flowed wonderfully."

-Keeley Ferguson, 11

Senior Tori Dixson performs during secret pal along with other members of choraliers. Photo by: Jillian Talley



Senior Samantha Loza, sophomore Rachel Stewart and senior Tori Vaughan perform for secret pal. Photo by Jillian Talley

Members of the choralier team perfom an act together during a concert which was held in the East Auditorium at Portage High School during the fall of 2010. Photo by: Jillian Talley

Japaneese culture, art forms inspired Anime Club members

The discussion on anime, Japanese culture, poster design, knowledge and drawing of anime cartoons and origami, Anime Club kicked it up this year.

This is the second year that the school has had its very own Anime Club. All of the students involved were excited to be more organized and have a larger number of students take an interest in the club this year.

A lot of the incoming freshman joined, making the club's attendance greatly increase.

"Last year we were just a little group of fifteen and we just got thrown in with art club. This year we have more then double that many people and we actually have officers and what not," sophomore Kati Morrison said.

Due to the number of students involved this year, Anime club had more of their own identity. It didn't take the club long to get down to business, as they chose club officers as soon as they got members settled in.

Morrison was voted this year's president. Sophomore Mikey Holt was elected vice president, sophomore Briana Ameson was voted secretary and sophomore Sarah Batey was chosen to be treasurer. This motivated the club to do more than last year and try to accomplish more of the activities that they wanted to do.

They decided from the very first meeting they had to watch and discuss more anime and broaden their horizons on the art and culture of Japan. Every Wednesday, when the members met after school, they knew that they had constant laughs and new information about Japanese culture and cartoons to look forward to. Everyone shared the information they knew and all the other students listened, gave their input and learned something new almost every meeting.

Everyone in Anime Club hoped that the attendance, as well as the art and knowledge of anime, continued to broaden more and more throughout every year and with every new class that came in.

Story By Kaitlin Volk

What was your first impression of Anime?

"I thought it was unique and funny."
-Devon Watson, 10

"I really liked the art and style of it. It also has really deep stories."
-Michael Holt, 11

"I'm more interested in the art of anime. I don't really like watching it."
-Bree Rutz,10

"I thought it was a little weird, but after a while you get used to it."
-Kyle Ceasar, 9

Sophomores Brianna Ammerson and Alyssa Quade listened intently, during anime club. Photo provided by Anime Club

The many members of Anime club turn their attention to club leaders for more information on next weeks meeting. Photo provided by Anime Club

Sophomore Caitlin Stanley participated in an Anime Club meeting. Photo provided by Anime Club

Art Club students express themselves through their talent

Every Wednesday after school, there was one place where students would go to express their creative sides.

Art club could be considered a home to many of the artists at Portage High School. Where else could students go to throw a bowl on the potter's wheel, or get some artistic advice from any of the art teachers that sponsor the club.

"It's a fun environment and the sponsors are fabulous," senior Jackie Huber said.

The atomsphere of the club gave off a relaxed and carefree feel, which was perfect for those who simply wanted to focus on their art.

Every medium of art was at the students disposal, as opposed to an art class where certain projects were assigned.

"I love being able to work on what I want, and with what I want. I epecially like to work with clay freely," senior Amanda Thorn said.

In Art Club, nothing was off limits, and that's one of the reasonss the club attracted its members. The club may have been a small, sometimes quiet, group, but you can guarntee that their art did all the talking.

Story by Kaite Mendez

What is your favorite art medium?

"My favorite art medium is water color, because i just love it."
-Jonathan Mendez , 12

"Paint, because I like that I can control the color, and I can make whatever I'm painting look the way I want it to."
-Amanda Thorn, 12

Senior Johnathon Mendez works on a base for his ceramics 2 project during art club. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Members of Art club work on the extruder to create long coils for their coil bowls. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Junior Brooke Olsen began making her bowls on the wheel one afternoon in Art Club. Photo by Taylor Kibble

Thespians take a bow to celebrate a great year

Drama goes through the theater when it came to Thespian club. Thespians worked on both the fall play 'Up The Down Staircase' and the spring musical 'Hairspray.' Letting loose and having a good time was only some of the positives for thespians. Learning new techniques for the actors helped them when stage time was in place.

"I learned how to focus when a lot of other things were going on. I enjoyed being on stage and being somone different. I had more fun in Thespians than anything else," junior Jacob Cherry said.

Thespians opened the door to all around theater. The crew was able to learn and see how fighting while acting can be difficult and how to make their kick or punch believable. Planned events and fundraisers such as Halloween parties were used to benefit the theater. A haunted trail with illusions like an electric chair and fog machine were only some of the props used for the thespians' spook.

"I have been involved in thespians for four years total. I joined because I like theater. For all the underclassmen; I know some of you will be hesitant to join but thespians is so much fun. Do not be scared to be on stage. It is worth it in the end," senior Johnna Collins said.

For many of the seniors, their one-of-a-kind characters will forever be left on the stage. Some have received the theater bug and will continue with acting for the rest of their high school carreer, or even further. Others have learned valuable social skills, but one thing that all thespians have shared are unforgettable memories.

"Thespians is open to all students. I really enjoyed being on stage and learning more about theater. Thespians is a group you can get into and feel accepted," senior Emily Dominguez said.

Story by Gigi Chavez

What Made You Join Thespians?

"Originally I did not know about Thespians until it was my sophomore year, I fell in love with it. I have shared great memories with my friends. One of the things we would do was snap our fingers every time Mr. Giese would talk. Thespians is a great place to find new friends if you enjoy theater,"

-Eric Curbow, 12

Junior Jacob Cherry dances to the Nicest Kids in Town on the Corny Collins Show. Cherry played heart-throb Link Larkin in the spring musical Hairspry. Photo By Jillian Talley

Seniors Elisa Castillo, Kayla Turner and junior Courtney Mason play students giving their new teacher a hard time in the fall play 'Up the Down Staircase.' Photo by Melissa Deavers-lowe

Junior Crystal Woloszyn and senior Jacob Parnsh talk while preparing for scatter dodgeball during the spring musical 'Hairspray.' Photo by Jillian Talley

Learning the Basics of the Military

The MCJROTC is a very proud group of students that expresses their leardership thoughout the school and community. They are never last to lend a helping hand whether it's by food drives to leaf raking or anything the community may ask help for. They are well known for their commitment and dedication they all have to the program. "We take this program seriously, because many of us seek to join the military after high school, and the military is about brotherhood," said sophmore Gage Cuthbert. The MCJROTC program is a student run program where the cadets can share their experiences, ideas, and opinions on the school and community. Several of the senior cadets may find themselves in a position to instruct the class. After all of their hard work around the school and community the MCJROTC cadets find time to have fun with eachother and organize movie nights, lock-ins, and drill meets. "I like the people here, they are all my best friends." said junior Nick Smith.

Story By Taylor Kibble

How do you plan on using your training in the future?

"In my enlisment in the Marines."
-Kelsie McClellan, 12

"As a way to become a better citizen."
-David Burr, 10

"I plan on using the life saving skills we learn."
-Devin Smitka, 11

"I really want to join the Marines."
-Nakayla Best, 10

A MCJROTC cadet proudly smiles at the crowd during the homecomming parade. Photo by Jillian Talley

Freshman Kelsey Benson talks to the class about the troubles of gossip around the school.
-Photo by Ben Mathewson

Senior Stephanie Call inspects a line of new freshman cadets. Call is in her fourth year in the MCJROTC program.
-Photo by Ben Mathewson

SAGA makes their last book

A magazine made by the students for the students. Yes that's SAGA a journey through art, poems, photography, lyrics, and more. SAGA is a student made magazine where students can submit their most proud work for everyone to see.

"We review submissions we choose the pieces and then enter them into a program called ' Scribus.' I am very proud of what our group has managed to accomplish as far as I have seen, we have gone above and beyond." Senior co-editor Sarah Nadolski said.

Creativity is keen the magazine is made around divergent pieces that stand out the most. The magazine is put together through a program called Scribus that most of the students say is ridiculously hard.

"Scribus the computer software is just horrible. I'm PR (public relations) so I advertise we tried to put all of our ideas together to make the commercial look legit," Junior Shubhkarman Multani said.

Unfortunately, this was the last year for SAGA the students have tried to promote SAGA by making commercials, flyers and announcements.

"SAGA is one of the most fun classes I have ever taken with the most wonderful people and most productive environment SAGA is a magazine to show talent it is very intelligent and creative," Senior Simone Ingram said. Story by Gigi Chavez

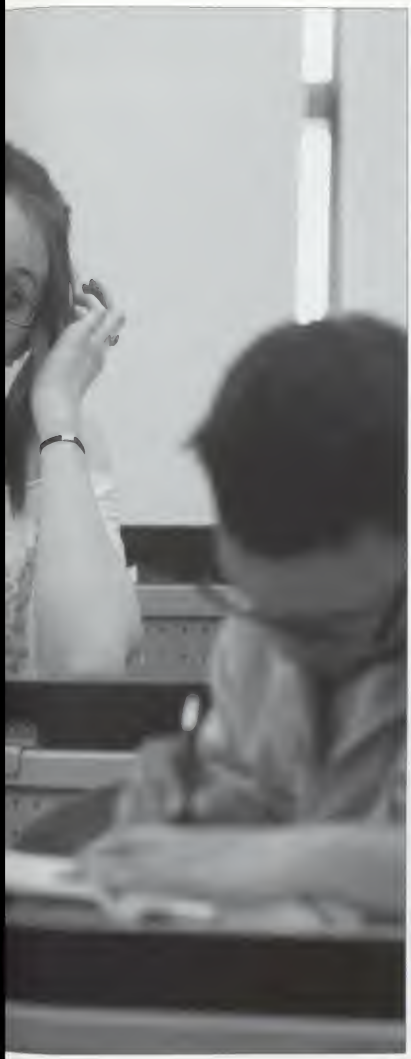
What is Your Favorite Memory From SAGA?

"I will remember how creative and Unique everyone that I worked with was."
- Megan West,12

"Moments that would seem out of context anywhere else.."
-Stefanie Monastyrski, 11

"No matter who you are, there is a place for you to fit in. Along with all the weird conversations we have."
-Kelsey Santiago, 12

"The extensive poop conversation, making the awesome display case, "The Circle of Life" being played at random times during class. Faithbook."
-Sarah Hensley, 12



Senior Amanda Lenover acts uninterested for her role as a student in detention for the Saga commercial. Photo by Jillian Talley

Members of Saga continue to work on their commercial to advertise the book. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Sarah Nadolski prepares to shoot the next scene in the second Saga commercial. Photo by Jillian Talley

Another addition pushes for tight schedules for the staff

With the newspaper, radio show, website, and the new edition to Pow Wow, the Indian News Network, tensions were none too high with the great balance of time and tight scheduling thanks to the entire staff.

"It [the class] was stressful at times because we had many different people preparing for different things, but it was an overall good atmosphere," senior Taylor Moreland said.

Co-anchored by sophomores Eric Mesarch and Brandon Vickrey, and training from advisor Melissa Deavers-Lowie and technology teacher Robert Beigh, INN was something of short notice that the staff was able to create. It replaced the morning announcements three days a week during second semester.

Pow Wow also faced a problem by having to raise their own money for their budget with fundraisers such as Cici's night and taping the junior's principal Michael Spagna to the wall. Each arm-length of tape raised another dollar for the staff. Pow Wow is ever growing with its wide variety of reporting.

"We're all creative thinkers and we try to get everyone interested," sophomore Eric Mesarch said.

Story by Taylor Kibble

What piece were you most proud to cover?

"The sports article on the students behavior and them being punshied in Portage VS. Valpo game. I feel it was challenging and my most controversial yet."

-Rachel Santos, 11

"My favorite Pow Wow artical that I ever did was the 'Mosque' story, because it opened my views on another culture."

-Danielle Evans, 12

"I like covering wrestling, because it is exciting to see all the players and fans get wound up and excited about the match."

-David Jercha, 11

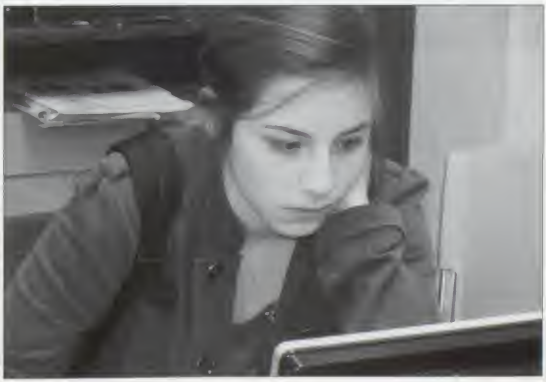
"The picture I am most proud of is last year when I took pictures of girls gymnastic. It won an honorable mention at Ball State."

-Steven Saylor, 11

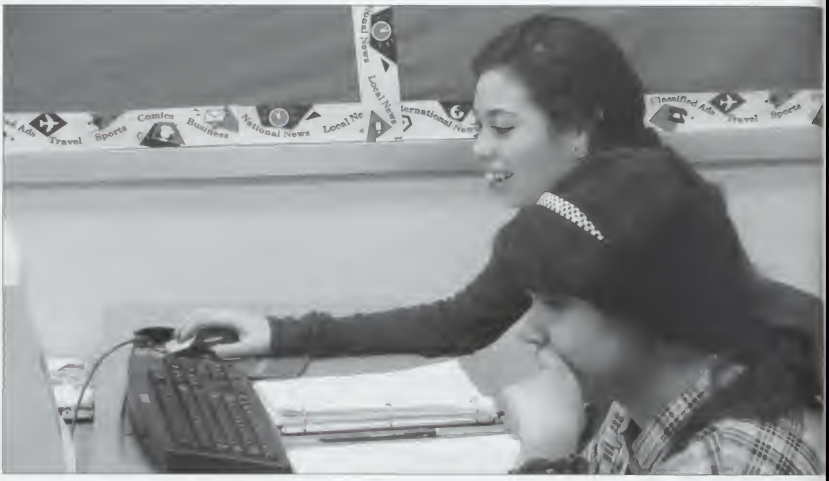
Members of Pow Wow work on their pages for the next deadline. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Sophomore Collin Czilli records an episode of Pow Wow radio after school. Photo by Melissa Deavers-Lowie

Junior Kirsten Demass works on her story for the upcoming deadline. Photo by Melissa Deavers- Lowie



Clubs editor Gigi Chavez and people section writer Sabrina Laviena work side by side on their sections. It is Chavez's second year on the Legend staff and Laviena's first. Photo by Taylor Kibble



While new equipment eases tasks, editors' combine their creativity, making for an interesting book

The legend staff worked particularly hard on this year's volume to create and capture moments and memories of "Breaking Away."

"It is a more traditional staff and book, more focused on good coverage and making it the best yearbook they can," advisor Melissa Deavers-Lowie said.

Over fall break, the staff had the privilege to break away from the irritating and obsolete computers and programs that would often prove somewhat unreliable to prior staffs, and receive brand new ones to better the student publications experience.

The cheerful chemistry of the staff kept them all in a comfortable environment that they could all work well in.

"I think they are amazing [computers] and awesome," said clubs editor Gigi Chavez. The creativity in each staff member's creativity was displayed in all the work they accomplished and created this year.

"Dana and I are complete opposites, it will be interesting to see how it all turns out," co-editor-in-chief Kaitlyn Mendez said. They have strived to make this volume one that that will stand out and break away from the ordinary.

Story by Taylor Kibble

Junior Dana Haywood concentrates on fixing errors on proofs for the yearbook, making sure everything is correct. Photo by Kaite Mendez

Juniors Jillian Talley, photo advisor, and Flo Frenzel, photographer, edit and sort through photos they have taken. Photo by Taylor Kibble

How have you "broken away" this year?

"By making new friends and realizing now is the time to grow up. After high school, it's a whole new ball game."

Kayla Mills, 12

"I've broken away from the habit of procrastination and am now buckling down."

Sabrina Laviena, 12

"I left my home country, family and friends to come to Portage."

Flo Frenzel, 11

"I stepped out of my comfort zone to meet new people. Last year I didn't talk very much and this year I am an editor-in-cheif."

Kaite Mendez, 12

Advanced Chorus – Mod 2
Lauryn Alvea, Melissa Anguiano, Mariah Armstrong, Chassity Bauswell, Alexandria Beatty, Raina Bellow, Amanda Bogolin, Ashley Bonzani, Angelica Bradford, David Burr, Kylan Cairnes, Stacy Carroll, Heather Cheek, Brandon Crosby, Kayla Dearing, Christina Delturco, Andrew Dolan, Ashley Duda, Seth Felling, Keeley Ferguson, Brian Field, Samantha Geiselman, Cody Gilbert, Justin Givens, Allison Graveline, Bradley Hill, Haley Kado, Alyssa Knaga, Anthony Laramine, Alexandra Littke, Jennifer Lynch, Briana Maddox, Benjamin Mathewson, Tiana McQueen, Kvanna Otero, DAvid Papan, Ariella Pearman, Michelle Plance, Brittany Reyes, Alisha Robinson, Belinda Rodriguez, Marcruz Rojas, Damien Rosworn, Nicole Ruiz, Jessica Sanders, Haley Sansone, Elizabeth Saylor, Justin Sirbas, Kyle Smart, Lyssa Springman, Marissa Taylor, Christopher Ticen, Jelenys Torres, Brittany Watts, Hayley Weathers, Mirisa Weathers, Tiffany Woloszyn

Advanced Chorus Girls – Mod 9
Stephanie Benjamin, Meaira Bennett, Nina Carlisle, Kimberly Coffey, Mariah Cormier, Tiffany Cross, Leena Darnell, Lydia Dreckman, Minica Farris, Desirae Fink, Robin Fraley, Sarah Gaskin, Deide Grede Sierra Guajardo, Heather Hastings, Rochelle Hatchett, Lorena Hill, Jordan Hoffman, Kelli Jacobs, Jordan Kaiatkowski, Aubrei Laas, Erin Lichnerowicz, Amanda Litzkow, Jamie Major, Lauren Miles, Katherine Morrison, Shontiel Nunn, Heather O'Mahoney, Stephanie O'Mahoney, Sydney Perrone, Abigail Psiuk, Dominique Ponce De Leon, Diamond Redding, Desire' Rodriguez, Breanna Rutz, Kelsey Santiago, Adriana Saucedo, Jessica Schlimgen, Ashley Shine-Tinsley, Rachel Siska, Rachel Stewart, Kaylan Tayla, Megan Valetich, Lauren Waite, Jaid Winland, Sarah Yingst, Sydney Yingst

Intermediate Concert Chorus – Mod 4/5
Taylor Ailes, Emily Albee, Makayla Barton, Kevia Bennett, Marisa Bravo, Amanda Brayton, Madison Brewer, Angela Buchanan, Hannah Cawthon, Darien Cole, Morghan Cooper, Sarah Crane, Ember Evans, Hannah Falcetta, John Fannin, Katrina Fuller, Tricia Graveline, Miranda Hale, Jordan Haywood-Harrop, Jake Hayden, Samantha Hendron, Sookwasa Hirunmekavanich, Cynthia Holt, Brooke Jackson, Briana Jenkins, Lily Lin, Darrien Lindsay, Ian Lloyd, Jessica Loza, Christina Major, Rachel Major, Rosa Raldo-Rueto, Jalise McKnight, Jomari Miranda, Megan Murphy, Stephanie O'Drobinak, Kelsie Patton, Sydney Penrose, Brittany Ramos, Kirsten Replinger, Kingston Rogers, Amanda Ruffle, Sidney Sako, Destiny Sams, Katerina Serrano, Ashley Sosbe, Xavier Todd, Hannah Vandermolen, Carolyn Walker, Jessica Watts, Alyssa Wozniak, David Ybarra, Sierra Zagorac

Intermediate Chorus Girls Glee
Kaitlyn Adkins, Angelica Calvin, Krystal Eastman, Kataryna Martinez-Paris, Taylor Mlynski, Jacquelyn Moyers, Candace Mulzon, Krystal Mulzon, Sarah Nasiatka, Diamond Pullins, Sara Quiroz, Lindsey Rambo, Corina Ramirez, Shawna Rogyom, Lauryn Sanders, Lorraine Sheets, Alexandria Silva, Shannon Summers, Alyssa Vicari, Deanna Wood, Breyanna Woodruff-Tyler, Ashley Zarych

Vocal Jazz – Mod 7/8
Lauryn ALyea, Mackenzie Barcelli, Jorden Breezley, Brooklynn Creech, Torrey Dixson, Alexandra Elisha, Bernadette Fannin, Keeley Ferguson, Jessica Gerstner, Elizabeth Johnson, Megan Keleman, Samantha Loza, Briana Maddox, Mayra Martinez, Stefanie Monastyrski, Mariah Pol, Kelsey Santiago, Jasmine Sleaford, Rachel Stewart, Kayla Turner, Victoria Vaughan, Krystal Woloszyn, Tiffany Woloszyn

Intermediate Concert Band – Mod 1
Maira Bennett, Ashley Bjaste, Jahnathan Davis, Jonathan Dery, Michael Elkins, Holliann Faulkner, Gabriella Fink, Deanie Foster, Robert Garbart, Stacey Gregorash, Austin Hakes, Joshua Kane, Naudia O'Neal, Isaac Perez, Adam Peter, Matthew Rebich-Graham, Desirae Soto, James Spence, Shannon Summers, Timothy Talley, Kaluu Waddell
Advanced Concert Band – Mod 2
Bailey Bingham, Ashley Burbee, Liane Cesare, Kimberly Coffey, Kurl Culp, Jonathan De St Jean, Benjamin Dvorscak, Ashton Edwards, Dustin Edwards, Chelsea Eol, Rachel Foreman, Tyler Franklin, Erica Gaffney, Beatriz Galvan, Lydia Gil-son, Rachael Gonzalez, Valerie Gregorash, Cody Grzelak, Austin Hanang, Justin Hill, Kenneth Howell, DeVon Jeffrey, Jamie Jones, Zachary Laskowich, Regina Lopez, Richard Maldonado, Rorik Markley-Kobyeck, Alexander Mischke, Todd Mocabee, Stefanie Nanney, Stephanie O'Mahoney, Desiree Perez, Isaac Perez, Danielle Petro, Nathaniel Smock, Richard Speed, Joshua Stallworth, Kyle Timmerman, Jeffrey Webb, William Wilkinson, Jaid Winland, Nachalus Worman, Zenobia Wynn, Amanda Zick

Jazz Ensemble – Mod 9
Ashley Burbee, Liane Cesare, Jonathan De St Jean, Benjamin Dvorscak, Randall Eaton, Dustin Edwards, Chelsea Elx, Tyler Franklin, Erica Gaffney, Austin Hamang, Aaron Nelson, De-Siree, Nathaniel Smock, Joshua Stallworth, Kyle Timmerman, Jeffery Webb, Nichalus Worman

Advanced Orchestra – Mod 2
Mackenzie Barcelli, Elizabeth Berns, Jordin Billings, Danielle Black, Chance Boney, Taylor Cable, Megan Cassidy, Raquel Cervantes, Adam Coffman, Daniel Coffman, Kevin Crowe, Kathryn Cunningham, Randall Eaton, Wesley Engel, Scott Ershick
Michelle Figueroa, Christian Gonzalez, Kenneth Guerra, Tia Hammerstein, Heather Hastings, Haley Hodges, Madalyn Jeffers, Hunter Johnson, Kaley Liang, Luis Martinez, Christina Miller, Marina Mossell, Nathan Mossell, Nikola Nacovski, Aaron Nelson, Rebecca Ordway, Kristifor Pejkovic, James Podgorski, Mariah Pol, Katherine Rose, Lee Sheehan, Michaeline Spencer, Shelby Stanley, Michaela Steinburg, Armandina Torres, Brian Weaver, Sarah Tingst, Laren Zack

Beginning Orchestra – Mod 3
Elijah Bryant, Brittnee Burcham, Gage Eason, Mitchell Hooper, Jamie Major, Natalia Nacovski, Olivia Padilla, Katie Price, Lindsey Rambo, Corina Ramirez, Emily Stanley, Zachary Swets, Stephanie Vance, China Venson, Noah Volk, Jamila White, Noell White

Intermediate Orchestra – Mod 1
Kenneth Beckham, Crystal Bennett, Trisha Bennett, Tyler Berns, Abby Berquist, Stephen Berridge, Holley Bingham, Paul Bylen, Lorissa Byrely, Crysta Crews, Nayla Davis, Dianna Devoung, Licas Dvorscak, Christina Figueroa, Katrina Fuller, Kyra Fuller, Ceatriz Galvan, Zachary Goolsby, Andrew Hayden, Bradley Hill, Justin Hill, Hannah Hilzley, Amber Huckaby, Erin Lichnerowicz, Jomari Miranda, Mary Nagel, Angelica Nunez, David Olivo, Christopher Perry, Amanda Pogue, Caleb Rix, Kameron Sorensen, Dominique Soto, Leah Streetman, Christopher Ticen, Clarissa Tokash, Jacqueline Volk, Anping Wang, Sarah West, Zachary Wilczynski

Diversity Club
David Arroyo, Shantia Carprue, Billy Curry, Adriana Davis-Coco, Crystal Fuller, Katrina Fuller, Kyra Fuller, Simone Ingram, Breanna Jenkins, Tiana Johnson, Taylor Leslie, Darrien Lindsey, Breanna McCollum, Courtney Payne, Alex Silva, Alex Schreier, Jessica Watts

GSA
Tiffany Cross, Victor David, Valarie Gregorash, Nathan Peek, Wendi Pope, Zak Spurlock, Hope Velasquez, Faith Velasquez

Legend
Kendra Becker, Gesenia Chavez, Adam Coffman, Florian Frenzel, Dana Haywood, Taylor Kibble, Sabrina Laviena, Benjamin Mathewson, Kaitlyn Mendez, Kayla Mills, Jilhan Talley, Victoria Vaughan

How Wow
Rodney Back, Nakiel Blackwell, Hayley Bradford, Shelby Bryniarski, Collin Czilli, Kirsten Demass, Hannah Dorman, Danielle Evans, Emily Evans, Shelby Fischer, Abigail Hargarten, Peyton Hulse, Morgan Jackson, David Jercha, Eric Mesarch, Taylor Moreland, Grace Morris, Katie Peksenak, Rachel Santos, Steven Saylor, Brandon Vickrey, Jeffrey Webb

Speech Team-
Adrieanna Davis-Coco, Brad Lafata, Sidney Yingst, Nikola Raskova, Mikaela Terry

FHS-
Taylor Cable, Breana Beal, Brianne Cipich, Valerie Gregorash, Tori Bliss, Marie Hallman, Ata Braner, Zachary Laskovich, Jeffrey Craig, Simona Tomeska, Sarah Davies, Jessica DeRose, Thomas Duff, Hannah Dorman, Katherine Engel, Austin Edwards, Kaitlin Salinas, Alexis Amor Garcia, Kenneth Guerra, Logan Fischer, Ali Johnson, Sidney Hawkins, Killian Kidd, Brad Lafata, Lily Lin, Clarissa Talamadge, Ana Martinez, Brittany Winter, Kacie McGuire, Yesenia Mendoza, Kayla Mills, Maria Murillo, Mariela Murilla, Parth Patel, Alexandra Pratl, Megan Price, Alyssa Sass, Maria Simms, Carson Snyder, Joshua Sullivan, Jessica Vasquez

Recycling Club
Eleanor Bloom, Billy Curry, Bernadette Fannin, Florian Frenzel, Rachael Gonzalez, Cody Grezelak, Justin Grezelak, Ken Guerra, Sarah Hensley, Samantha Loza, Mayra Martinez, Grace Morris, Tiffany Oldaker, Cody Spoolstra, Nick Worman

Dental Health-
Cristlyn Arcuri, Chelsea DeVault, Julie Dube, Morgan Franklin, Allison Gannon, Lazsher George, Jessica Gerstner, Daniel Holtzman, Shaunti Johnston, Colleen Kuczwara, Ashley Lesnick, Ashley Mindur, Cara Pfeiffer, Diamond Redding, Dimas Reyna, Rebekah Saikin, Clare Sanders, Ashley Smith, Justin Suggs, Taylor Vardaman

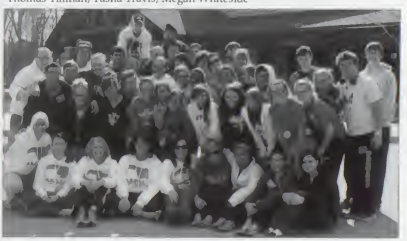
HOSA-
Ashlee Allen, Allen Barrett, Kelli Cicillian, Michelle Comerford, Lisandra Cruz, Ari Cummings, Stephanie Cunningham, Tyler Currin, Alexis Garcia, Sydney Goetschel, Pauly Gonzalez, Abby Hargarten, Alexandra Janiga, Jeff Kolbus, Britteny Palo, Tristan Pearman, Marisa Rodriguez, Breahna Simpson, Madeline Solis, Kris Springman, Nelson Trinidad, Jessica Vasquez, Leonard White, Zach Wittorp

JROTC – Mod 9
Devin Adams, Kelsey Benson, Stephen Berridge, Nakayla Best, Alexandria Bowen, Victoria Burgos, Stephanie Call, Zachary Chandler, Justin Coates, Darrius Coleman, Brandon Collins, Victoria Cooper, Ryan cummings, Maaximillian Danko, David Faitak, Brian Field, Aidan Fletcher, Taylor Hehr, Timothy Herman, Christian Hewitt, John Higgins, Ariel Hill, Zachary Hinds, Jasmine Johnson, Victoria Jones, David Littleton, Kurtis Lloyd, Kala Manning, Rorik Markley-Kolwyck, Jacqueline Marvel, Jennifer May, Andrew Medanich, Kenneth Mezydlo, Jordan Penix, Jesenia Perez, Corina Ramirez, Kirsten Replinger, Darrin Robinson, Jacob Ruebensam, Edgar Saavedra, Brandon Sholes, John Swisher, Faith Velasquez, Michael Walsh, Chelsea Wathen, Lorenzo Wells, Joshua Whitman, Michael Wisniewski

JROTC – Mod 2
Alton Chappel, William Cooper, Christopher Cordray, Thomas Damon, Martha Esparza, James Fonner, Othie Freeny, Meagan Forman, Da'Sheanna Harvey, Griffin Hayes, Tyler Henninger, Samuel Hill, Joseph Jackson, Santiago Jeter, Nathaniel Johnson, Christina Kajefska, Samantha Lengbehn, Devin Lewis, Eric Lichnerowicz, Timothy Manning, Ashley M Daniels, Destiny Mensing, Catherine Miller, Alfredo Orta, Desire' Rodriguez, Michael Schultz, Adam Seiler, Nicholas Smith, Devin Smitka, Noah Sobocinski, Aimee Stanley, Valerie Stepaniak, Hope Velasquez, Carolyn Walker, Anping Wang, Tiara Washington, Whitney White Clayborn Williams, Deanna Wood

JROTC – Mod 3
Briana Ammeson, Chassity Bauswell, Michael Berridge, Ashley Blastick, Mattew Bolin, Angelica Bradford, Shane Brayton, Joanne Buford, David Burr, Gage Cuthbert, Breosha Gilbert, Max Hammerstein, Samantha Hendron, Joseph Johnson, Alexis Kerr, Megan Layton, Jennifer Leary, Tonya Lewis, Jordan Linville, Regina Lopez, Robert Manning, Timothy Manning, Joshua McClellan, Kelsie McClellan, Zachary Smith, Stephen Smith-Childress, Caitlin Stanley, Thomas Tillman, Tasha Travis, Megan Whiteside

JROTC – Mod 4/5
Chelsea Anderson, Laci Anderson, Ashley Barton, Randall Bolde, Anthony Bumbales, Dakota Callender, Christine Chapa, Anthony Demaria, Josh Dresbaugh, Lorena Hill, Austin Holt, Jonathan Hudson, Bryce Jones, China Lee, Anthony Mattis, Nathaniel Maxcy, Matthew Meade, Nicole Meade, Jani Paxson, Dillon Quigg, Thomas Richter, Norman Sanders, Justine Stiebner, Kaylan Taylor, Zachary Taylor, Jacob White



Natural Helpers-
Shub Muliani, David Jercha, Joey Little, Tess Moreland, Jess Someson, Michelle Shafer, Jessica Jay, Kris Springman, Tristan Pearman, Kyle Dranchak, Brittany Winter, Eleanor Bloom, Austin Edwards, Madison Becker, Carli Piro, Sierra King, Rachel Santos, Kendra Becker, Rachel Stanley, Kelly Holtzman, Ali Johnson, Kacie McGuire, Jasmine Sleaford, Jeff Miller, Jake Fortenberry, Kristen Ashby, Desiree Garnett, Clare Sanders, David Letson, Morgan Jackson, Clinton Wight, Kevin Hinkle, Nakiel Blackwell, Abby Clark, Alex Acosta, Christian Cherry, Eric Curbow, Allie Poznanski, Megan Morris, Samantha Loza, Rafael Orta

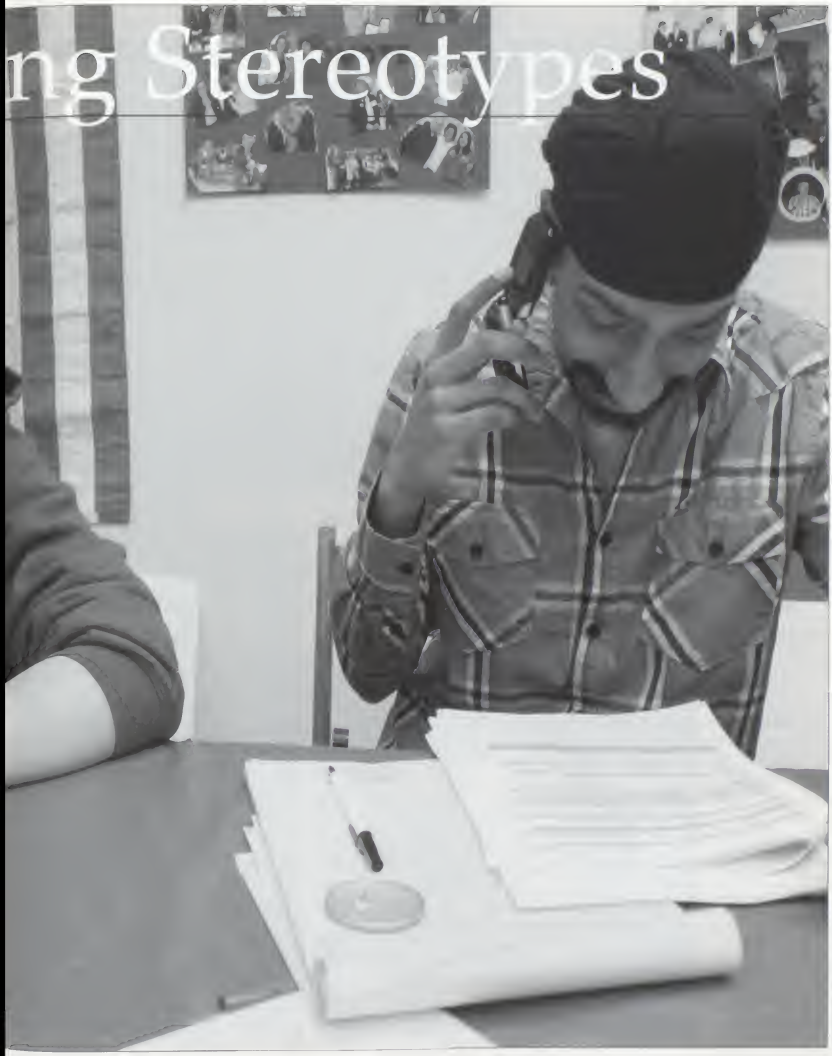
1. Juniors Tayler Bayer and Shubhkarman Multani participate in the 2011 primary mayoral elcetions. Bayer and Multani made phone calls to Portage residents reminding them to vote.

2. Junior Marko Pekovic and history teacher Catherine Nye reminisce at the secret pal social.

3. Seniors Billy Wirth and Clinton Wight help their senior class in winning the spirit stick for the fourth consecutive year.

Photos by Jillian Talley

ng Stereotypes



Breaking Away From the Average Life

Seniors start off their last year of high school either dreading it or excited for it. It is the moment that the majority of seniors have looked forward to the most. There are many students that have great success during their senior year, but one student imparticular that has acheived many goals is senior Tori Bliss.

Tori Bliss has been in multiple sporting activities, such as softball, track, basketball and soccer. She has also been involved in Captains' Council during her freshman year of high school and Diversity Club her junior year. She was indited into National Honor Society of Portage High School during her junior year of high school.

"I am involved in a lot of activites because I want to do a lot. I realized that I needed to buckle down on my work and be able to recognize my limits. I take on the right amount of sports so I can still balance it with my school work," senior Tori Bliss said.

Her great achievements in her four years of high school, she received a full ride scholarship to Louisiana State University. Not only has she been able to get a full ride scholarship and had excelent academic acheivement during high school, but she was also crowned as Homecoming Queen for her school's Winter Homecoming girls basketball game against LaPorte.

"I was excited to be able to win, it was enough to know that people were thinking of me when they voted. I did not expect it and am just really glad that people think of me as good enough for such a title," Bliss said.

Tori had an excellent high school career, and does not regret any thing she has been involved in. Senior year of high school really makes your whole time in high school worth it, but only if you have worked hard at the begining in ninth grade. Enjoy high school, because you are only young once and cannot ever take anything back. Story by Kayla J. Mills

Luis Acuna *Captains Council 11, 12; HOSA 10; Wrestling 9, 10, 11, 12*
Timothy Ahner
Danielle Aimone

Sabrina Alaniz *Cheerleading 9, 10, 11, 12; Gymnastics 9, 10; Softball 9, 10, 11, 12*
Hilario Iii Alicea
Craig Alley

Dean Anderson *FLHS 11, 12; Golf 10; NHS 12; OWSP 12; Senior Class Club (Class President); Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Council 10, 12*
Jeremy Anderson *Athletic Training 9, 10, 11, 12; Captains Council 12; Latin Club 9, 10, 11; NHS 11; Senior Class Club; Student Council 11, 12; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12; Key Club*
Melissa Anguiano

Ashley Antle
Crialyn Arcuri *Cheerleading 9, 10; Choir 9, 10, 11*
Jacquelyn Arnold *Academic Team; Golf 11, 12; Junior Miss 11 (4th runner up); Diversity Club 11, 12; Quiz Bowl 11, 12; Science Olympiad 11; Spell Bowl 12 (Captain); Spring Musical 12*

Richard Arredondo *Choir 9; Golf 10, 11, 12; NHS 12*
Ashley Arriaza
Kristen Ashby

Brenda Avila
Ryan Ayala
Nicholas Ayres

Amanda Bach
Rodney Back *Paw Wow 10, 11, 12; Swimming and Diving 9, 10*
Chelsea Bahlmann

Senior Tory Bliss fights to make a basket at the Portage Winter Homecoming Game. Not only is she busy scoring points in basketball but she is also busy on the field as well. Her hard work has paid off and she will be attending Louisianna State University on a full ride track scholarship. Photo by Jillian Talley

Jennifer Bailey *Gymnastics*
April Baker
Brian Barnas *Baseball 9; Football ~ 11 12; NHS 11 12 OYM 12 Senior Class Club (Vice President); Student Council 9 10 11 12*
Megan Barner
Tiffany Barrientez
Rileigh Basich
Dillon Beaudry

Tyler Beck
Kendra Becker *Cheerleading 10 11; Soccer 9; Natural Helpers 11; Legend*
Madison Becker
Samantha Becker
Matthew Bell
Stephanie Benak
Carly Bermes

Diana Bernal
Elizabeth Berns
Charles Bertolo
Heidi Bilderback
Ashley Blastick *Band 9; Key Club 9 10 11 12*
Clarissa Blazek *Golf 9 10 11; NHS 11 12 (Historian); Student Council 10 11 12 Senior Class Rep.; Yearbook and Driving 11 (Manager)*
Tori Bliss *Basketball 9 10 11 12 Captains Council 11 12 Diversity Club 10 NHS 11 12 Soccer 11 Softball 9 Track and Field 9 10 11 12*

Business equals success

Students are taking Business classes in high school to help prepare them for their futures, along with some of the classe offering college credit.

"I am taking business classes, because I want to be able to run my own business one day. I also am in Businesss Profesionals of America and I am there thanks to business classes," senior Mike Barnes said.

Business class has really helped shape how students think and help them decide what they want to become.

Story by Kayla J. Mills

Senior Vince Fischer is working on a taste test project in Bryan Lochmondy's marketing class. His choice was to see if people can tell the difference in colas. To his group's surprise, most people liked the generic brandmore.

Senior Michael Barnes sayys, "I am in Business Proffessionals of America (BPA). And was insprired to be in it, because of past business classes that I have taken. Taking business classes has helped me a lot in decidin what I want to do and I want to one day own my own business."

Eleanor Bloom *Choir 9 Fall Play 12 Junior Miss 11 (Finalist) Latin Club 9 10 11 NHS 11 12 (Treasurer) Science Olympiad 12 Senior Class Club Spring Musical 9 10 11 12 Student Council 9 10 11 12 (Rep. 9 10) Treasurer 11 President 12) Volleyball 9 10 11 Recycling Club 11 12*

Amanda Bogolin *Cheerleading 9 11*

Paige Bourdon *Captain, Council 8 Gymnastics 8 10 11 12*

Megan Boyer *Anime Club 11*

Jordan Brentley *Choir 9 10 11 12 Cheerleading 12 French Club 11 12 (Secretary, President) Junior Class Club (Secretary Club 11 Senior Class Club Spring Musical 9 10 11 12) Student Council 11 12 Treasurer 9 10 11 12 Recycling Club 11*

Ashley Brunwehl *Art Club 10 11 12 Freshmen Class Club Junior Class Prom 10 11 Sophomore Class, Student Council 9 10 11 (Secretary 10)*

Joni Brown

Tyler Brown *Football 10 11*

Donald Brownfield

Michael Brunner

Joshua Bugarin

Ashley Burbee

Kaytlynd Burns

Anthony Byrom *BPA 10 11 12 (President) Fall Play 11 12 Football 9 10 11 12 (Manager) Junior Class Club (President) OYAE 12 Senior Class Club (Treasurer) Student Council 10 11 12 Thespians 12 Wrestling 10 11 12 (Manager) Mascot 12*

Marcos Cabrales

Scott Cairns

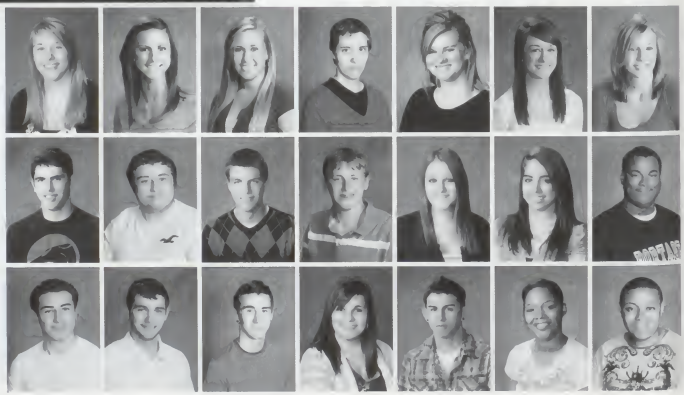
Zachary Camel

Lauren Campbell

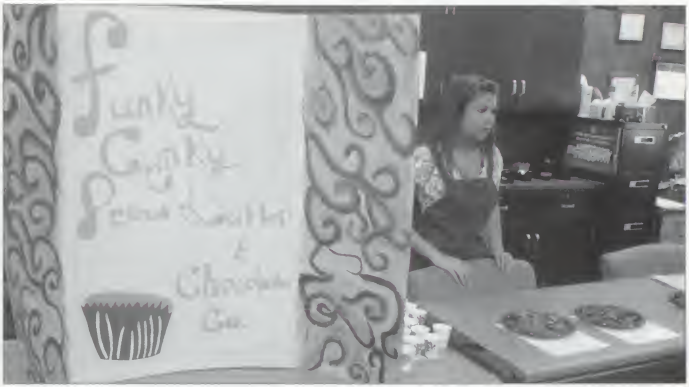
Kyle Carlotta *Wrestling 9 10*

Ashley Carter

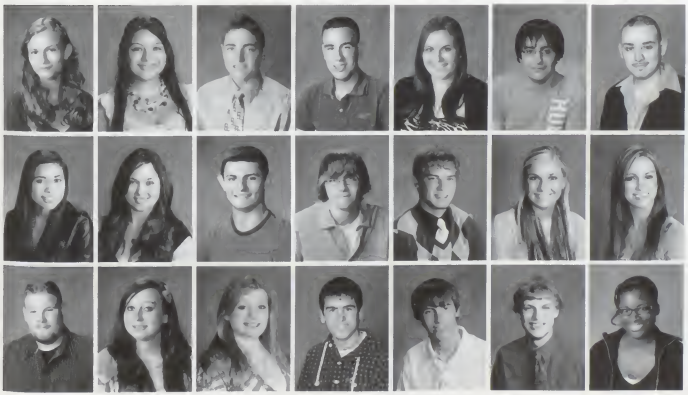
Ricky Carter



Preparing for the Future



Senior Amanda Bach and her marketing group did their project on peanut butter cups. They were curious to see which brand people would like more. The group provided three different brands and found that most people liked the generic brand as well. Senior Beth Berns came up with the idea for the poster board. "This was a good project," Amanda said. This group matched their clothes as well as being the only group to bring in a painted poster board.



Erin Cassidy *Academic Team 10, 11, 12, Art Club 10, 11, 12, Fall Play 11, 12 (Student Director), French Club 10, Junior Miss 11, Marching Band 11 (Color Guard), Science Olympiad 10, 11, 12, Spring Musical 11, 12 (Props Master), Student Council 12, Thespians 12, Young Adult Readers 11, Powder Puff 11, 12*

Elisa Castillo *Fall Play 11, 12, Junior Miss 11, Thespians 11, 12*

Cory Castor *Athletic Training 11*

Christopher Cather

Luzee Cesare *Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Environmental Club 10, 11, 12 (Vice President), German Club 10, 12, Jazz Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Junior Miss 11, Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Spanish Club 10, 11, 12, Spring Musical 12, Stairmaster and Dance 9, 10, 11, 12*

Nicholas Chaja

Daniel Chavez

Gesenia Chavez *Legend 11, 12*

Heather Cheek *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12, French Club 11 (Secretary)*

Anthony Cheky *Baseball 11, 12, Basketball 12, Captains Council 12, Football 12*

Taylan Chenoweth

Christian Cherry

Alicia Cieselski

Abigail Clark *Athletic Training 9, 10, 11, 12, Captains Council 11, 12, Choir 9, Junior Miss 11, Latin Club 9, 10, 11, 12 (Vice President), NHS 11, 12, Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain), Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 (Representative), Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain), Natural Helpers 11, 12 (Staff)*

Daton Clark

Lyndsi Clay *RCTC 9*

Catherine Clem *Art Club 9, 10, 11, 12 (President), Fall Play 11, (Head Hair and Makeup), Spring Musical (Head Hair and Makeup), Thespians 11, 12, German Club 10, Prom Committee 11*

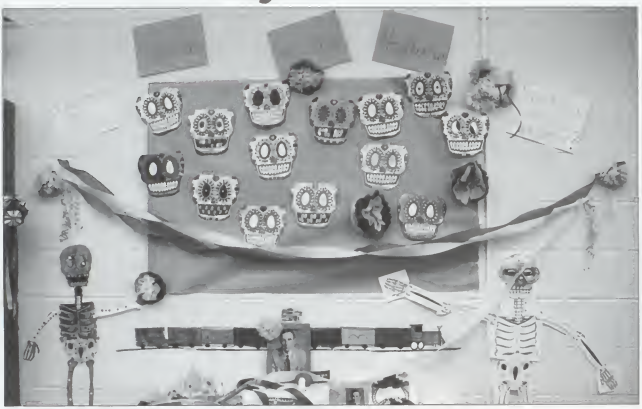
Andrew Cody

Jonathan Coffing

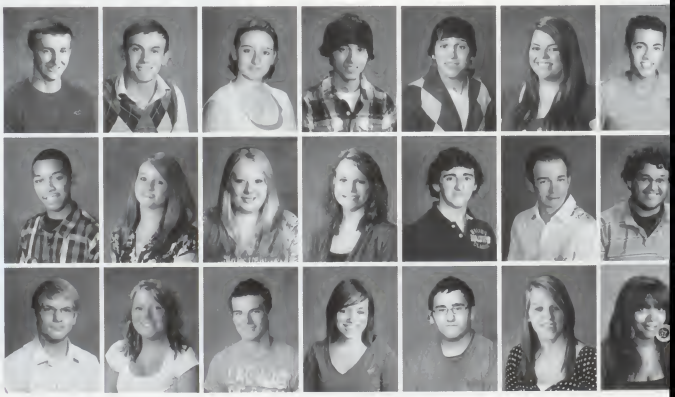
Adam Coffman

Johnna Collins

Day of the Dead



Linda Peda's spanish classes made alters for El Dia Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in November. This was an assignment meant to get the students involved in the spanish culture and along with this activity some of the students went to Navy Peer in Chicago to participate and witness traditional Day of the Dead cultures.
Photo by Kayla J. Mills



Jeremy Colvin
Macleister Conners
Megan Conners
Richard Contreras
Brandon Coppinger
Desiree Craig
Jeffrey Craig

Jahmil Crawford
Brooklynn Creech
Kayla Crews
Hayley Crofton
Kevin Crowe
Antonio Cuevas
Eric Curbow
William Curry *Diversity Club 11, 12; French Club 9 10; National Honor Society 10; Science Olympiad 11, 12; Student Council 12*
Jessica Dabrowski
Travis Daily
Megan Dalby
Thomas Damon
Sarah Davan *Key Club 11 (Vice President), NHS 12; Student Council 11 12 (Student Body Historian)*
Adrieanne Davis-Cove *Academic Team 11; Anime Club 9; Art Club 11; Cheer 11 12 (President, Librarian); Diversity Club 9 10 NHS 10 12; Quiz Bowl 11 12; TV Captain; Saga 11 12 Senior Class Club; Speech Team 11 12 (co-Captain); Spring Musical 12; Student Court 10*

Foreign Language

Senior Meagan West is in German and this is her favorite saying...

"I really like to say ich lebe dich! (I love you!) It is a good phrase people should hear more often."

Senior Devin Rushing is in Spanish and this is her favorite saying...

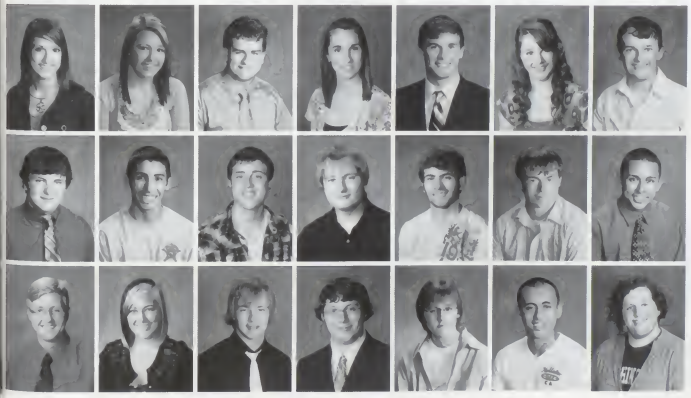
"I like to say me gusta panqueques! (I like pancakes) I like saying it, because I like pancakes a lot."

Senior Scotty Erschik is in French and this is his favorite saying...

"I like to say Je pense donc je sui. (I think therefore I am) because it's funny and makes you think."

Senior Sarah Nadolski is in Latin and this is her favorite saying...

"I like the phrase Amantes sunt amentes. (Lovers are lunatics) It is funny and in a sense it is true."



Christina Delnuco *Cheer 9, 10, 11, 12; Cross Country 9, 10, 11, 12; Swimming and Diving 11, 12; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12*
Chelsea Devault
Kyle Diaz
Sarah Dienes *Basketball 9; Captains Council 11, 12; GSA 9, 10, 11, 12; Legend 11, 12*
Jacob Dixon *Baseball 9; Basketball 10, 11; Captains Council 11, 12; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; OVAA 12 (Winner); Track and Field 10, 11, 12*
Torrey Dixson *Cheer 9, 10; Cheerabers 10, 11, 12; (Historian); Fall Play 11; Junior Miss 11; Spring Musical 9, 10, 11, 12; Thespians 10, 11*
Trent Dosel *FAHS 11, 12; NHS 12; Tennis 12*

Kyle Dranchak *Baseball 9; Football 9, 10, 11*
Jesse Duque *Soccer 10; Wrestling 9, 10, 11, 12*
Daniel Dutton
Darren Duvall
Aaron Eastridge
Cameron Eaton *Captains Council 10, 11; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12*
Nicolas Echevarria
Dustin Edwards *Academic Team 11, 12; Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Jazz Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Marching Band 9, 10, 11, 12, NHS 12; Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Spring Musical 12*
Alexandra Elisha *Cheer 9 (President); Cheerabers 9, 10, 11, 12 (Vice President, Historian, President); Junior Miss 11, 12 (Winner); OVAA 12, Spring Musical 9, 10, 11, 12; Thespians 9, 10, 11, 12*
Michael Elkins *Band 9, 10, 11, 12; German Club 10; Pep Band 10; Thespians 10, 11, 12*
Gregory Ellis
Matthew Emmons
Angel Encinas
Scott Ershick

BEAKERS

BREAKING

In Barbara Williams nineth hour Biology II class, senior Breosha Gilbert and her partner are taking a closer at specimens under a microscope in their lab project.

Taking a closer look at the unknown

There are many science classes to take at Portage High School and one of them that many students take is Biology II. Biology II comes after Biology I, Chemistry, and Intergrated Chemistry and Physics. What does all this mean? It means that, this class is made up of juniors and seniors. In this class you will experience mature grown up conversations and will be taught the story of life to a much higher level. Senior Breosha Gilbert took Biology 2 as the next step for her science education.

This is one of the most involved classes in high school. There are so many projects that you have to do and not only are you, yourself involved, but you also have a group to do it with. You have to depend on your partners to do their share of the work and be able to let your partners rely on you that you will be on time with your projects.

"This is a fun class and there is still a lot of work that you may have to do, but it is worth it, because you can have fun with science and getting to make friends while working," senior Kayla Turner said. Story by Kayla J. Mills

Stephanie Esguerra
Richard Espino
Daniel Espinosa
Nicholas Etheridge
Abigail Evans
Danielle Evans *Pete Wentz 11, 12*
Kristy Evans

Kylie Evans
Eric Ewing
Ross Falk
Anton Fentress
Johnny Figueroa
Michelle Figueroa
Haley Fine

Christopher Fink
Kayla Fink
Vincent Fischer
Georgeanna Fischer
Kayla Fitchett
Anjellica Flatt
Martin Flores

Rachel Foreman
Morgan Franklin
Joshua Galvan
Sydney Garland
Ericka Garneau
Desiree Garnett
Daniel Gasaway

Ashlee Gast
Lazaber George *HOSA 12; Prom*
Jessica Gerstner *Choir 9, 10; SADD 12 (Secretary); Chorallers 10, 11, 12 (Historian); Fall Play 11; HOSA 12 (Class Representative); Junior Miss 11; Thespians 11.*
Kevin Gibson
Breosha Gilbert *Cheerleader 9; HOSA 12; ROTC 9, 10, 11, 12.*
Jacquelyn Givens
Jacob Glass *Bowling 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain).*

Christina Golden *Captains Council 10; Choir 9; Junior Class Club 11; NHS 11, 12; Senior Class Club 12; Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 (Senior Class Secretary); Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain).*
Caleb Gomez
Bianca Gonzalez
Heather Goodman
Kiara Goshay
Deide Greider
Chandler Griffin

Justin Grzelak
Elizabeth Guglielmetti *Junior Miss 11; NHS 12; Recycling Club 10, 11, 12; Young Adult Readers 10, 11.*
Alexis Gutierrez
Brandon Hall
Jonathan Hall
Andrea Hallmen *Key Club 11, 12 (President); Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12.*
Ashley Hallmen *Key Club 11, 12 (Vice President); Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12.*

Tia Hammerstein
Megan Hammons
Brittany Harmon
Ashley Harris
Elizabeth Harris
Michael Henry
Sarah Hensley *Choir 9; Latin Club 12; Recycling Club 9, 10; Soccer 12; Science Olympiad 12; Young Adult Readers 11, 12.*

Alicia Hernandez
Irving Hernandez
Elizabeth Hicke
William Hill
Kevin Kinkle *Football 9, 10; FCA; NHS 12; OWAC 12; Track and Field 10.*
Kevin Hock
Aron Holt *Anime Club 11; Fall Play 11; Variety Musical 12; Thespians 11, 12.*

Daniel Holtzman
Kelly Holtzman *Legend 11.*
Christopher Howell
Jacquelynn Huber *Art Club 12.*
Davonte Hudson *Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 9, 10, 11.*
Jeramie Hughes
Matthew Hunter *Football 12.*

Zachary Huston *Athlete Training 11; Baseball 9-10; Basketball 9, 10; Captains Council 12; Football 9, 10, 11, 12*

Megan Hylton *Latin Club 9, 10; LA 12; Softball 9, 10*

Briana Igras

Kylie Ingersoll

Simone Ingram *Fall Play 12; Diversity Club 10, 11, 12; Saga 11, 12; Speech Team 11, 12; Spring Musical 11, 12*

Cody Jackson

Deandre Jackson *Captains Council 11; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Swimming and Diving 9, 10; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12*

Davilyn Jarvis

Jai Quel Jenkins *Athlete Training 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10, 11*

Sierra Jimenez

Danielle Johnson

Darrion Johnson

Nathan Johnston *Basketball 9, 10; Football 9; OYM 12; Soccer 12; Track and Field 9*

Lawrence Jones

Ashley Jordan

Joseph Juhasz

Haley Kado *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; Swimming and Diving 11*

Kristin Kalch *Basketball 9, 10*

Valerie Keehn

Taylor Kibble *Art Club 11, 12; Legend 12*

Killian Kidd *Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Key Club 10; OYM, Track and Field*

Mark Kiley

Benjamin Kiser

Brianna Kiser

Alyssa Knaga *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12*

Kurt Knudzen

Bryce Komenda *Baseball 9, 10, 12*

Natalie Korpak *Art Club 9; Captains Council 10; Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Council 9, 10*

Jessica Kozlowski

Colleen Kuczwara *HOSA 11, 12; NHS 11; Student Council 9, 10, 11; Tennis 9, 10; Volleyball 9, 10*

Joseph Laczkowski

Jeremy Langman

Cassandra Larimore

Katrina Larson

Sabrina Lattanzi *Art Club 11; Basketball 9, 10; Soccer 10; Student Council 10, 11, 12; Tennis 9, 10; Track and Field 12*

Nicholas Latulip

Sabrina Laviena *Legend 12*

Alan Lawson

Megan Layton *ROTC 9, 10, 11, 12*

Tyler Lello

Amanda Lenover *HOSA 11; Quiz Bowl 11; Saga 10, 12 (Representative); Student Council 9, 10, 11, 12 (Representative); Student Court 9*

Nicole Leveritt

Jack Lewis *Captains Council 10, 11; Golf 9, 10, 11, 12*

Leland Lewis

Jordan Linville *ROTC 9, 10, 11, 12; Drill 10, 11, 12*

Alexandra Littke *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; FLIS 11, 12; French Club 11, 12 (Treasurer)*

Jordan Lively *Bowling 12*

Anthony Lomeli

Kenneth Longfellow

What is your *silly* face?

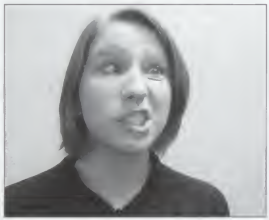
Senior year can be very hard for a lot of seniors, with all the planning for college and getting ready for graduation. Seniors should be able to relax a little bit, as well as take time off to just be silly. These seniors found time to show everyone else their silly faces.

These seniors have very promising futures guaranteed with successful carrers. They want to be able to look back on their high school career as being memorable as well as fun.

They also wish for every one to enjoy and appreciate the eighteen years they spent on picking out their silliest face.

Story by Kayla Mills

Senior Jacob Parish



Senior Allison Gannon

Senior Eric Curbow

Christopher Lopez
Joshua Low
Samantha Luna *Cheerleaders 11, 12; Junior Miss 11; (Third Runner-Up); NHS 12; Spring Musical 10; Student Council 11...12 (Representatives); Young Adult Readers 11, 12*
Marissa MacCoy *Choir 11 (Vice President); Junior Miss 11 (Talent Award Recipient); Diversity Club 10; Student Council 11 (Representative)*
Briana Madden *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 (Treasurer); Cheerleaders 12; Fall Play 11...12; French Club 11 (Treasurer); Junior Miss 11; Spring Musical 11; Student Council 12 (Representative); Thespians 11, 12*
Brianne Majewski *Legend 11; Softball 9, 10, 11*
Christina Major *Campus Life 10; Choir 12 (President); FLHS 11, 12; Junior Miss 11; NHS 12; Powderpuff Football 11, 12; Senior Girls Dance 12; Softball 10; Student Council 10, 11, 12; Track and Field 10, 11*
Stefanie Malkamos *Spanish Club 10*
Ashlee Markle *Art Club 9, 10, 11...; French Club 12; GSA 12; German Club; Spring Musical 12*
Alexander Marsh *Football 9, 12*
Alexander Martinez
Mayra Martinez *Academic Team 9, 10, 11, 12 (Captain); Cheer 9; Cheerleaders 9, 10, 11, 12 (Secretary); FLHS 11, 12; French Club 10; Junior Miss 11 (Finalist); Diversity Club 10, 11; NHS 11, 12 (Secretary); Recycling Club 10, 11, 12; Science Olympiad 9, 10, 11; Senior Girls Dance 12; Spell Bowl 9, 10, 11; Swimming and Diving 9, 10, 11, 12; Young Adult Readers 10, 11, 12 (President)*
Niko Martinez
Christopher Mathis
Cory Mayberry
Kelsie McClellan *Drill 10, 11, 12 (Exhibition Platoon Commander); Orchestra 9; ROTC 9, 10, 11, 12 (Freshman, Commanding Officer)*
Cheyenne McCormick
Jessica McElfresh *Volleyball 9, 10, 11*
Erika Ewan Centeno *Dance 12; Swimming and Diving 9, 10...12*
Steven McCracken
Marissa McQueen *Choir 9, 10 (Vice President); French Club 9, 10; Junior Miss 11; Diversity Club 11; Spring Musical 11, 12*

Peer Tutoring

Senior Lauren Haddox is a peer tutor here at PHS and this is what she has to say about the program: Being a Peer tutor has been a rewarding experience for me. there is so much you can take from being with these kids. It is great!

"I recomend peer tutoring to every body. This has been a lot of fun and a great time, I took peer tutoring because I thought it would be better than a study hall. It was definitely better than a study hall," Senior Stephanie Benach said.

"Every day I go in to peer tutor, I leave with a better attitude and with a smile. The kids in here are so sweet and I just really enjoy being with them," Senior Amber Medanich said. Amber Medanich has been a peer tutor for a few years now and each year it just gets better for her.

Amber Medanich
Eric Melcic *Athletic Training 9, 10*
Football 9, 10
Jonathon Mendez *Art Club 9, 10, 11, 12, Key Club 11, 12*
Josue Mendez
Kaitlyn Mendez *Art Club 11, 12, Legend 11, 12 (Editor-in-Chief), Sage 12, Peer Tutoring 9, Spanish Club 10*
Egan Mergl
Chloe Mickey-Lowe
Jeffrey Miller *Art Club 10, Latin Club 9, ROTC 9, 10, 11*
Maverick Miller *Cheerleading 10, 11, Football 9*
Olivia Miller
Kayla Mills *Legend 11, 12 (Section Editor), NHS 12, Peer Tutoring 11, 12, FLHS 10, Pom Wow 10*
Samih Mirza
Alexander Mischke *Academic Team 9, 10, 11, 12 (Math Team Captain), Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Quiz Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12, Spell Bowl 9, 10, 11, 12*
Diamond Mitchell *Choir 9, 10, 11*

Zachary Mlynski
Jeremy Mocabee
Brittany Mock
Taylor Moreland *Junior Miss 11, Diversity Club 11, Homecoming Queen Nominee, Pom Wow 12 (Opinion Editor), Spanish Club 11 (Vice President)*
Grace Morris
Megan Morris *Bowling 10, 11, 12, Natural Helpers 11, 12 (Staff), Student Council 9, 10 (Treasurer)*
Christopher Morris

Matthew Moser-Austin
Alanna Mossell *Fall Play* 10; *Junior Miss* 11 *(First Runner-Up), Orchestra* 9, 10, 11, 12 *(Principal Violist), Soccer* 10, *Spring Musical* 10, 11, 12, *Tennis* 9; *Thespians* 9, 10, 11, 12
Roberto Mota
Tarra Motton
Anita Mourani
Jacquelynn Moyers *Bowling* 9, 10, 11, 12; *Choir* 9, 10; [illegible]
Melissa Murray

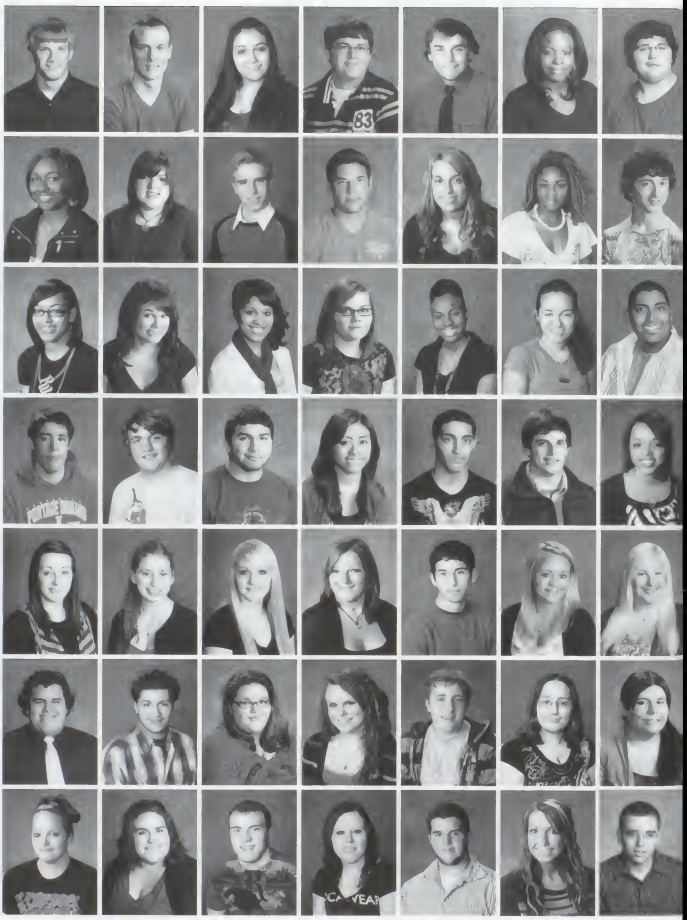
Gabriel Myers
Sarah Nadolski *Academic Team* 9; *Art Club* 11; *NHS* 11; *Saga* 10, 11, 12; *Young Adult Readers* 10, 11, 12
Miguel Negroni *Athletic Training* 10, 11; *Basketball* 9, 10, 11, 12; *Captains Council* 11, 12
Steven Nelson
Mark Nevil *ROTC* 11
Casey Newcomb *Swimming and Diving* 10, 11; *Track and Field* 10, 11, 12
Angelica Nicholson

Jonathan Noe
Matthew Nordyke
Stephanie O'Mahoney
Timothy Patrick O'Shaughnessy
Crystal Our
Darion Oren
Christopher Owens

Brittany Pallo
Shavon Parker
Christopher Pastoriza
Parth Patel
Sara Patten
Alyisa Patterson
Tristan Pearman

Dalton Peek
Susana Pena
Natasha Pepper
Alexie Perez *Environmental Club* 10
Isaac Perez
Cameron Peters
Colton Petroski
Adam Petyo
Ashley Pezan *German Club* 9, 10, 11, 12; *Junior Miss* [illegible] *(Steven's Awards), Pep Band* 10
Cara Pfeiffer
Emily Phillips
Michelle Plance
Mariah Pol *Cheerleaders* 9, 10, 11, 12 *(Treasurer, Librarian), Junior Miss* 11 *(Finalist), NHS* 11, 12; *Orchestra* 9, 10, 11, 12 *(Librarian), Saga* 10; *Spanish Club* 9, 10 *(Secretary), Young Adult Readers* [illegible]
Samantha Polak

Ryan Pope
Wendi Pope *Anime Club* 11, 12; *NHS* [illegible] *(Secretary), Diversity Club* 10; *Riley - Philanthropy Boot Camp* 12
Jasmin Portes *GSA* 12; *Diversity Club* 10, 11; *ROTC* 11, 12; *Spanish Club* 10; *Students Council* 11; *Track and Field* 12
Jarrod Powell
Allison Poznanski *National Helpers* [illegible] *NHS*
Megan Price
Jessica Propeck



Samuel Pachalski *Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12; Captains Council 11; Football 9, 10, 11, 12; OYM 12*
Chadd Purcell
Brittany Quiroz
Nicholas Radtke *Band 9, 10; Bowling 9, 10, 11, 12; Marching Band 9, 10; Pep Band 9, 10*
Nathan Ramian *Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball 9*
Danielle Randle El
Matthew Razus

Diamond Redding *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12*
Sarah Reid
Gerald Renzino *Cross Country 11; Soccer 9, 12; Student Council 11, 12*
Dimas Reyna
Gabrielle Rhoads
Nykee Riley
Trey Rivas *Baseball 9*

Fionne Rivera
Katalina Rivera
Cristy Rivera-Lopez
Megan Robinson
Renishia Robinson
Cynthia Rodriguez
Joseph Rodriguez

Alejo Rodriguez-Carrizales
Jimmy Rogers
Jose Rojas
Maricruz Rojas
Raheem Rosser
Damieri Rossworn
Tara Rowland

Mckenzie Ruiz
Devan Rushing *Art Club 10, 11, 12; Co-President; Junior Mini 11; Spanish Club 10, 11; Thespians 11*
Michelle Sabich
Rebekah Salkin
David Sanchez
Clarice Sanders
Tiffany Sanders

Daniel Santana
Josue Santiago
Kelsey Santiago
Alyssa Sass
Keith Sasser
Ashley Satanek
Adriana Saucedo

Bobbi Saylor
Elizabeth Saylor
Michael Schiller
Bethany Schima
Nicholas Scott *Captains Council 11; Football 9, 10, 11, 12*
Michelle Shafer *Volleyball 9*
Albert Shane *Choir 9; Golf 10, 11, 12*

PHS VOCATIONAL

Senior Justin Grzelak is in electronics and computer technology vocational. "I have a big interest in it. I think it is a little funny too, to be able to shock people. The real reason I am in it is, because it will help me with getting my college degree. I look forward to the future."

Senior Megan Price is in health occupations vocational. "I am in here because I want to go into the nursing field.This way I can get my certified nursing assistants liscence at the end of the vocational. There is a lot of work to do in this vocational, but it is definatly worth it."

Paul Shane *Baseball 9; Choir 9 Football 9; Golf 10, 11, 12; Wrestling 9, 10, 11, 12*
Lee Sheehan *Marching Band 10 Orchestra 9, 10, 11, 12*
Diontre Simpson
Jeremy Sinkus *Baseball 9, 10, 11, 12*
Brandon Sirbas
Kyle Smart *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12; ROTC 9, 10, 11; Drill Team 9, 10, 11, 12*
Andrew Smith
Ashley Smith *Basketball 9, 10, 11, 12, Captains Council 12; HOSA 12, Orchestra 9, 10; Soccer 10, 11, 12; Student Council 12; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12*
Bianca Smith *Student Council 9, 10; Track and Field 9*
Sabrina Smith
Nathaniel Smock *Band 9, 10, 11, 12, Captains Council 11, 12; Golf 9, 10, 11, 12*
Richard Sneed *Band 9, 10, 11; Marching Band 9, 10, 11; Pep Band 9, 10, 11, 12*
Jessica Somerson *Student Council 12; Volleyball 9, 10, 11, 12*
Kylie Somerson *Captains Council 11; Softball 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Council 12*

Lyssa Springman *Choir 9, 10, 11, 12*
Taylor Srednoselac
Allison Stacy
Rachel Stanley
Timothy Stanton
Brandon Stemple
Ashley Stepaniak *Anime Club 9, 10, 11, 12*

the man in the

Scottish Kilt

Here at Portage High School, students are able to be inspired by different cultures and their teachers. However, students are not the only ones that are able to be inspired and proud of it. Through out the years teachers show their inspiration by teaching special lessons and giving special assignments. There is one teacher that even dressed up to be like an inspirational poet.

On January 25, 2011 English teacher James Downes dressed up in a Scottish outfit in rememberance of Robert Burns, the Scottish poet. James Downes feels that it is important to celebrate Robert Burns each year to comemorate his birthday. Robert Burns was the inspriration behind '*Of Mice and Men*,' John Steinbeck.

"When Burns was alive, he continued to write poetry while the Scottish people were being persecuted and held down by England. Burns tried to keep the language and culture alive, and he should be remembered by every one who studies English," Engilish teacher James Downes said. Story by Kayla J. Mills

Arielle Stevenson-Hunter *Basketball 9; Choir 9; FFL 11; Junior Miss 11; University Club 11; Student Council 9, 10*

Brandon Stockstill

Justin Suggs *Band 9, 10; Pep Band 9, 10*

Katie Sullivan

Cody Sult *Football 9, 10, 11, 12; Track and Field 10*

Christopher Swier

Timothy Talley *Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Bowling 9; Captains Council 11, 12; Golf 9, 10, 11, 12; Marching Band 9, 10,*

Clarissa Talmadge *Band 9; Choir 10; German Club 11, 12; HOSA 11, 12*

David Tamieto *Football 9; Soccer 10, 11, 12; Spring Musical 11; Wrestling 9, 10*

Kyle Tampier *Baseball 9; Captains Council 12; German Club 9, 10; Golf 10; Tennis 9, 10, 11, 12*

Shelby Taylor

Marquita Thomas

Amanda Thorn *Art Club 10, 11, 12*

Kyle Timmerman *Band 9, 10, 11; German Club 10, 11; Marching 9, 10, 11; Ohio Saxophone Section Leader*

Micah Torres

Crystal Trinidad

Kayla Turner

Christopher Vale

Kristin Vandersteen *Junior Miss 11; Tennis 9, 10, 11*

Taylor Vardaman *Cheer 9, 11; Gymnastics 9; HOSA 12; Softball 9; Volleyball 9, 10*

India Vasquez *Quiz Bowl 10; Spell Bees 10; Student Council 11; Track and Field 9, 10, 11, 12*

John Vasquez *Student Council 9*
Jordan Vasquez
Victoria Vaughan *Cheerleaders 9; Junior Miss 11; Legend 12; NHS 12; Spring Musical 11; Student Council 10; 11; 12*
Zachary Vaughan *NHS 11, 12 (Parliamentarian), UIL 12, Student Council 9*
Daniel Vela
Breanna Villanueva *Printing Technology I 11*
Aaron Vizena

Brian Walker
Tongan Wang
Brittany Watts *Choir 10; 11; 12*
Nathan Waugh *German Club 9; 10*
Brian Weaver
Jeffery Webb
Alexis Weber

Brandon Welp
Brionna West
Christina West
Meagan West
Clinton Wight
Justin Wilkerson
Alana Williams

Dawn Williams
Kelly Williams
Daniel Wilson
Jacob Wirick
William Wirth
Ke'Andre Witcher
Roy Woodard *Athletic Training 10; 11; 12; Basketball 9; Football 9; 10; 11; 12*
Jawanza Woods *Basketball 9; 10; 11; Choir 9; Student Council 12; Track and Field 9; 10; 11; 12; Volleyball 9*
Nichalus Worman *Band 9; 10; 11; 12, Fall Play 12; Football 9; Marching Band 10; 11; 12 (Drum Major), NHS 12; Pep Band 10; 11; 12; Science Olympiad 12*
Joshua Wright
David Ybarra *Baseball 12 (Manager), Basketball 10; 11; 12 (Manager), Football 9; 10; 11; 12 (Manager)*
Kylee Yeomans
Sarah Yingst *Campus Life 9; 10; 11; 12; Choir 9; 10; 11; 12 (President); NHS 12; Orchestra 9; 10; 11; 12 (Treasurer)*
Mercedes Zambrana

Amanda Zick
Tyler Zilz
Michael Zmija

Not afraid of a change

With each new school year, it's important to set certain goals to hold yourself to. By setting these goals, you give yourself something to set your mind to and work hard for. Junior Rikki Eftenoff's goals for this year were to maintain good grades, and keep her friends close.

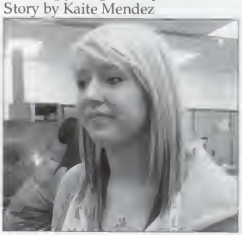
"I have made and kept a lot of friends this year. I have also met some new friends that I never thought I would get to know," says Eftenoff.

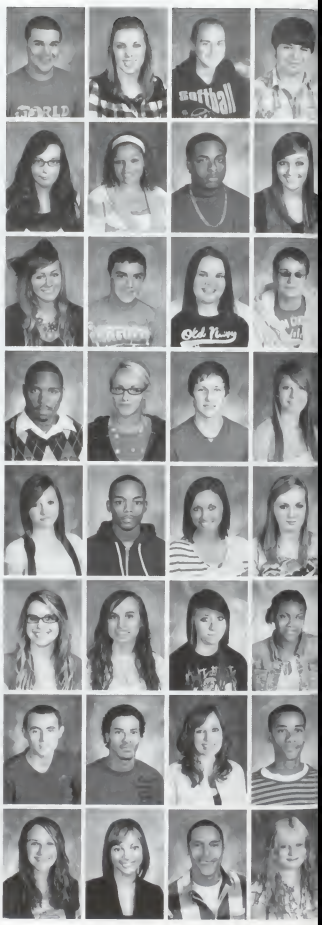
Stepping out of your comfort zone is also important when starting off a new school year, because you won't know what you're capable of until you do it. One of Eftenoff's greatest achievements is when she went beyond her comfort zone and went onstage at Front Porch Music in Valparaiso. "The whole performance was for breast cancer relief. I was a little nervous, but I knew it was for a really good cause, and knowing that made it easier," said Eftenoff.

Since Eftenoff set her goals she has been buckling down on her academics, and building on her relationships with her friends. "If I could do anything this year, it would be to make the honor roll. That would be great," said Eftenoff.

Setting goals is easy, but keeping them is the hard part. With the right set of mind, and help from the right people, reaching your goals is possible.

Story by Kaite Mendez





Gabriel Acevedo
Devin Adams
Lindsey Adams
Tyler Albee

Deborah Allcock
Ashlee Allen
Dejuan Allen
Kayla Allen

Lauryn Alyea
Arthur Anguiano
Mariah Armstrong
Jacob Arnn

Garette Austin
Bethany Ayers
Alec Ayres
Shelby Bailey

Samantha Baldner
Devonte' Banks
Jessica Barrett
Megan Bauswell

Tayler Bayer
Breana Beal
Stephanie Benjamin
Kevia Bennett

Nicholas Berkhout
Alvin Best
Holley Bingham
Jonah Bishop

Danielle Black
Nakiel Blackwell
Robert Blackwell
Haley Blakely

Anna Blaszak
Raven Blevins
Kitt Boles
Amber Bolin
Chance Boney
Ashley Bonzani
Jacob Bothwell

Sara Bottari
Alexandria Bowen
James Bowen
Jeffrey Bowen
Hayley Bradford
Aza` Braner
Cor Braner

James Brasseur
Kaleena Bretzinger
Abygail Brock
Christopher Brock
Andrew Brown
Jayshon Brown
Joseph Brozik

Sheri Brunker
Christopher Bruno
Justin Bruns
Shelby Bryniarski
Katelyn Buckland
Jerry Buford
Jason Bugarin

Brittnee Burcham
Ian Burke
Paige Burnham
Alexandra Bustos
Caitlyn Byrd
Taylor Cable
Dylan Cairns

Emil Cakardic-Valentim
Cristiana Camacho
Nina Carlisle
Alexis Carrasco
Stacy Carroll
Kyle Carter
Courtney Cash

Megan Cassidy
Blake Cassoday
Juan Castaneda
Crystal Castrejon
Timothy Cawthon
Raquel Cervantes
Erica Chambers

Nicholas Chambers
Jacob Cherry
Kelli Cicillian
Brianne Cipich
Jeremy Clark
Kyle Clay
Megan Clifford

Nichole Cloyd
Daniel Coffman
Donovan Cole
Nelson Collazo
Christian Colon
Jared Colvin
Michelle Comerford

Corissa Congious
Erin Connelly
Travis Conrad
Destiny Cooley
Ashley Cooper
Victoria Cooper
Mariah Cormier

Adrianna Correa
Billy Craft
Cheyenne Crofoot
Shaya Crofton
Ryan Crum
Lisandra Cruz
Xavier Cruz

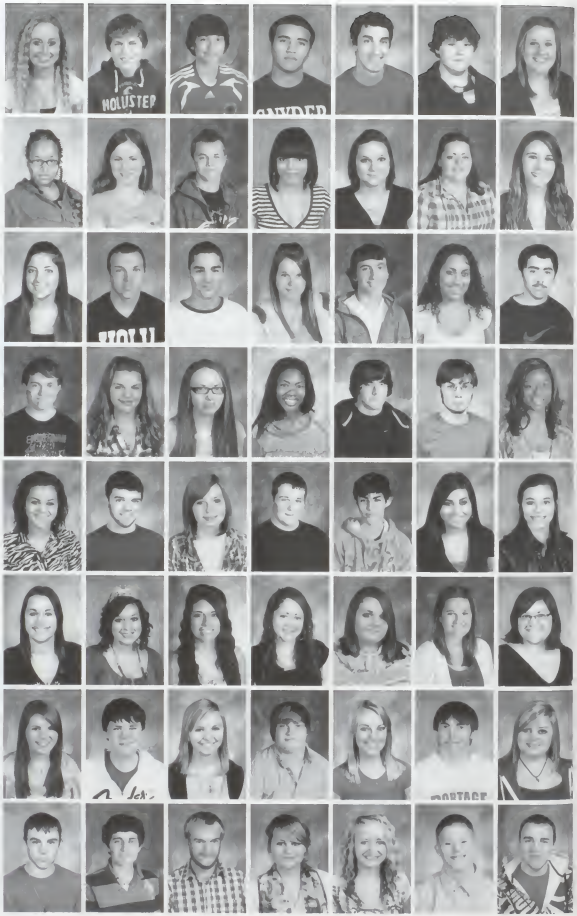
Karl Culp
Arielle Cummings
Kathryn Cunningham
Tyler Currin
Dennis Daily
David Davaney
Amber Davis

Meranda Davis
Preston Dean
Kayla Dearing
Trey Dejohn
Erik Del Valle
Kimberly Delacruz
Kirsten Demass

Jessica Derose
Monica Diaz
Ruby Diaz
Sierra Diaz
Charity Dill
Devan Doherty
Emily Dominguez

Hannah Dorman
Michael Dorrance
Morgan Dougherty
Patrick Doyle
Nichole Draia
Thomas Duff
Melissa Duvall

Nico Eason
Randall Eaton
Austin Edwards
Meghan Edwards
Rikki Eftenoff
Sean Egolf
Kyle Ehlers



math class is . . .

for the BIRDS

For most math classes they are the typical adding, and one factor that can not be subtracted.
On the third floor in the math department birds roamed the classrooms.

First year math teacher Jacob Ahlborn says that he has let out the bird aproximately five times and has also had to consider moving his classroom, because of the consistent entering of the birds.

"It comes in from the ceiling and has pooped all over the radiator," Ahlborn said.

The bird was said to be a sparrow and black. Several students had been know to scream when the bird was around.

Bryanna Emerson
Katherine Engel
Wesley Engel
Michael Escoe
Matthew Evans
Angela Ewing
Chelsea Exl

Keeley Ferguson
Zachary Fingar
Logan Fischer
Savanah Fischer
Patric Fleeger
Robert Fleeger
Tracey Flores

Jake Fortenberry
Robin Fraley
Tyler Franklin
Anthony Freeman
Steven Freeman
Othie Freeny
Florian Frenzel

Mary Fulkerson
Cody Gabriel
Erica Gaffney
Beatriz Galvan
Eric Gamblin
Alexis Garcia
Christian Garcia

Pablo Garcia
Brandon Gardenhire
Jeremy Gardner
Alisha Garza
Joshua Garza
Sarah Gaskin
Kaitlin Geary

Samantha Geiselman
Aaron Gibson
Jada Gilliam
Lydia Gilliam
Nicole Gland
Tiarra Glenn
Sydney Goetschel

Christopher Gonzales
Paul Gonzalez
Allison Graveline
Rodney Gray
Valerie Gregorash
Steven Griffith
Jeffery Griggs

Jacob Grimsley
Cody Grzelak
Sierra Guajardo
Kenneth Guerra
Samantha Guined
Logan Gunnum
Savannah Gurley

Anyssa Gutierrez
Nickolas Gutierrez
Lauren Haddox
Garrett Hale
Marie Hallman
Michael Hammonds
Gabriel Harden

Kimberlin Hare
Abigail Hargarten
Javari Harris
Heather Hastings
Demario Hathorne
Sidney Hawkins
Dana Haywood

David Heck
Christopher Helminiak
Timothy Herrman
Jacob Hill
Matthew Hill
Zachary Hinds
Sookwasa Hirunmekavanich

Cody Hixon
Denver Hollifield
Michael Holt
Brittney Hopper
Sabrina Hopper
Samantha Huckeba
Zachary Huisinga

Ashley Huth
Christian Ireland
Morgan Jackson
Terrel Jackson
Brett Jacobs
Oscar Jacobs
Anthony Jamka

Emily Jarrard
Kaitlyn Jarrard
Richard Jeffrey
John Jensen
David Jercha
Felisha Jernigan
Timothy Jetmund

Alexis Johnson
Ali Johnson
Amber Johnson
Elizabeth Johnson
Hunter Johnson
Jaylyn Johnson
Jennifer Johnson

Joseph Johnson
Justin Johnson
Daryl Jones
Tegan Jones
Jonathan Jordan
Nikola Kajmakoski
Craig Kallas

Cyle Keesee
Megan Keleman
Andrew Kemper
Nicoll Khumalo
Luke Kiley
Brett Kilgore
Michael Killmer

Nicholas Kincaid
Sierra King
Brittany Kirk
Zachary Kizer
Richard Knoble
Keri Kochvar
Nicholas Komoscar

Robert Koveck
Christopher Kozlowski
Christopher Kranick
John Kravis
Rockel Krejci
Brian Krug
Praine Kupiainen

Aubrei Laas
Giovanni Laboy
Samantha Laboy
Brad Lafata
Angela Lafronza
Brandi Lakomek
Cory Lamping

Good MORNING PHS

Junior Katie Lindsey starts her day with taking ten minutes to straighten her hair. She sprays her whole head with hairspary and gets dressed.Her usual look consists of skinny jeans and Vans.Lindsey then grabs her favorite cereal Cheerio's.After that she brushes her teeth and heads to her car so she can "Vroom" to school. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Junior Kristen Demass starts her day off every morning with heading to her bathroom and brushing her teeth. Then she showers and blow dries her hair. Demass thentakes her time trying to decide what to do with it. After that Demass tries on five outfits before she leaves. She finally grabs a snack and is on her way to school. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Zachary Laskovich
Jacob Lauritzen
Jessicca Lay
Charissa Leach
David Letson
Matthew Leucuta
Lily Lin

Katelyn Lindsey
Karley Lipps
Joseph Little
Amanda Litzkow
Kurtis Lloyd
Nicholas Longoria
Aaron Lopez

Michelle Lopez-Rosario
Shaquila Love
Daniel Luna
Zachary Lundy
Jennifer Lynch
Keith Madritsch
Aurelio Magallan

Kayla Mahaffey
Zachary Majewski
Kayla Maldonado
Richard Maldonado
Jessica Malott
Stephen Manley
Kala Manning

Michael Manns
Rorik Markley-Kolwyck
Travis Marsh
Randi Marshall
Luis Martinez
Timothy Martinez
Valeria Martinez

Courtney Mason
Jennifer May
Breeana McCollum
Cristah McCready
Ian McDonald
Alexander McGrath
Kacie McGuire

Chelsey McInerney
Alexis McKee
Laureen McKinley
Joseph Meade
Michael Meade
Andrew Medanich
Griffin Medved

Antonio Meeks
Jacob Meiss
Danielle Melton
Sarah Melton
Nathan Metz
Kyle Miller
Matthew Miller

Scott Minor
Kayla Mischke
Brett Mitchell
Cody Mitchell
Jeremy Mitchell
Stefanie Monastyrski
Hallie Monchilovich

Susan Moody
Rickey Moore
Sean Moore
Ashley Moreau
Tess Moreland
Jessica Morris
Zachary Moss

Nathan Mossell
Ariel Motto
Christopher Mueller
Paige Mulle
Shubhkarman Multani
Candace Mulzon
Maria Murillo

Zachary Murray
Nikola Nacovski
Paige Nadolski
Stefanie Nanney
Ericka Nelson
Jordan Nieto
Terra Norman

Heather Novreske
Brandee Nystrom
Brandi O' Reilly
Trinitie Oetman
Esteban Olmo
Brooke Olsen
Elizabeth Oprisko

Alfredo Orta
Diana Ortiz
Ronald Owen
Britni Owens
Nyla Owens
Emanuel Pack
Giovanni Paglicci

Kaitlyn Palcek
Breanna Palo
Brittney Palo
Cesar Pantoja
Eric Paolone
David Papan
Tyler Parker

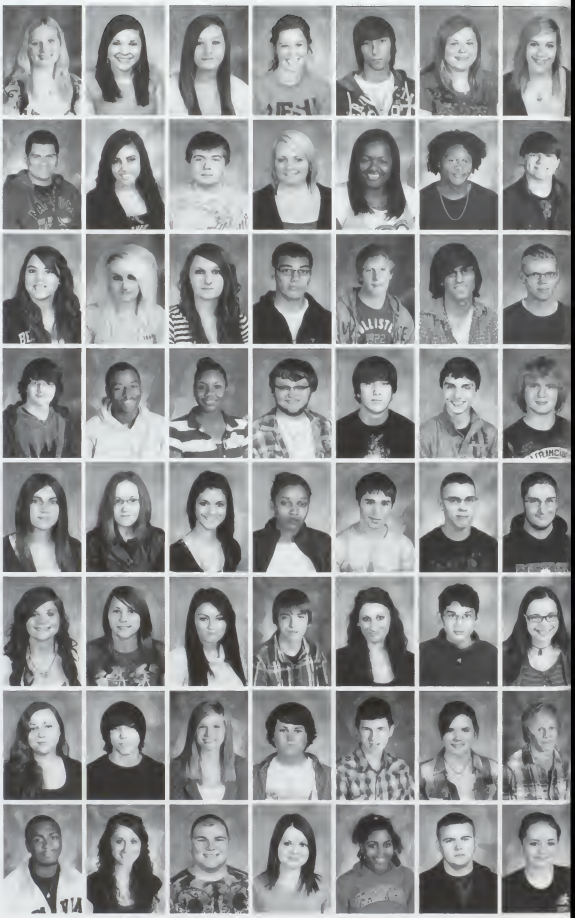
Steven Parrott
Seneca Patrick
Courtney Payne
Nathan Peek
Cody Peeler
Kristifor Pekovic
Lukas Peksenak

Katelyn Pelke
Kristina Peltier
Jessalyn Perez
Clothilde Persons
Elliott Peters
Matthew Pieczynski
Garrett Piers

Carli Piro
Jacklyn Plevo
Dominique Ponce De Leon
Matthew Poracky
Alexandra Pratl
Steven Rak
Nikola Raskova

Alainna Ream
Matthew Rebich-Graham
Alexis Reddington
Myles Reid
Joshua Rex
Marisa Ribar
Lake Rice

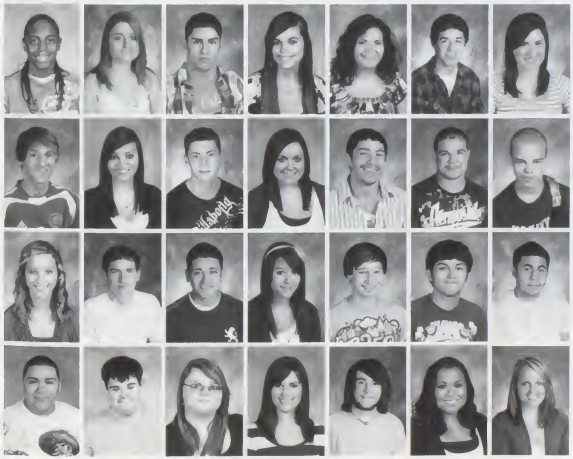
Cle' Von Riley
Vanessa Rivera
Eric Rizley
Alisha Robinson
Ashley Robinson
Darrin Robinson
Kayla Robinson



The Pass of the Class...

Social Studies teacher, Matt Mahns, has his students use a "zombie" rubber chicken as a pass. "I think it is weird to have as a pass, but okay,"junior Kelli Ecillian said.

Bryan Lochmondy has his students drive to the bathroom with his little pink school bus."It is a bus at the school, because most of my students are upper classmen and miss riding the bus" Bryan Lochmoindy said.



Michael Robinson
Amber Rodewig
Antonio Rodriguez
Belinda Rodriguez
Gabriella Rodriguez
Joseph Rodriguez
Marisa Rodriguez

Mitchell Rodriguez
Sabrina Rodriguez
Jeffery Rogers
Jasmine Roman
Jason Roman
Richard Roman
Jacob Ruebensam

Nicole Ruiz
Ryan Russell
Joshua Salgado
Kaitlin Salinas
Louis Samaniego
Alexander Sanchez
Angel Sanchez

Robert Sanchez
Salvador Sanchez
Jessica Sanders
Haley Sansone
Matthew Santiago
Rachel Santos
Ashley Sass

Jessica Satriano
James Savage
Steven Saylor
Joseph Scaccia
Adam Seiler
Lindsey Shadrix
Jesse Sherrell

Brandon Sholes
Courtney Simmons
Jordan Simmons
Zachary Simmons
Jamar Sims
Shyann Sims
Zachery Skripac

Jasmine Sleaford
Alyssa Smith
Daniel Smith
Matthew Smith
Nicholas Smith
Skyler Smith
Devin Smitka

James Smolen
Carson Snyder
Haley Snyder
Madeline Solis
Alysia Soto
Daniel Soto
Desirae Soto

Dillan Spears
Michaeline Spencer
Kristopher Springman
Zacharie Spurlock
Joshua Stallworth
David Stanford
Timothy Stanford

Aimee Stanley
Zachary Statler
Nicolette Stavrakis
Felicia Stilp
Jennifer Stone
Ryan Stovall
Andrea Stronczek

Joshua Sullivan
Anthony Sweeney
Tyler Swets
Jillian Talley
Gulniza Tanlaibekova
Jessie Tanner
Tabatha Tanses

Nicole Tarnow
Jessica Taylor
Marissa Taylor
Scott Terpstra
Alexandra Thompson
Riley Thompson
Zachary Thorn

Simona Tomeska
Abagail Trader
Andrea Trimble
Nelson Trinidad
Dominique Turney
Donald Twilla
Jordan Tzavaras

Matthew Urbanczyk
Brittany Vardaman
Thomas Vardaman
Miguel Vargas
Jessica Vasquez
Don Velazquez
Brianna Velez

Elimelech Velez
Kurtis Vild
Joseph Villegas
Tony Vitaniemi
Nicole Vuko
Kendra Wagner
Courtney Walker

Eric Wathern
Payton Watson
Austin Wattles
Tyler Weatherford
Branden White
Joseph White
Leonard White

Joshua Whitman
Paige Whitney
Heather Wighaman
Anthony Wight
Zachary Wilczynski
William Wilkinson
Dannette Williams

Davonte Williams
Payton Williams
Zachary Williams
Michael Wilson
Jaid Winland
Brittany Winter
Naomi Witten

Zachary Wittorp
Crystal Woloszyn
Nathan Workman
Samuel Wright
Andrew Zilz
Max Zmija
Krysta Zygowicz

The *Buzz* About PHS Radio

Last year the school's newspaper launched a new way for the Pow Wow to be heard. So what is new about it? It is on the Radio! What started out as being a two man job and an experiment to see how it would do, turned into an eight person job with airing three shows a week instead of just one.

"After seeing how successful our radio show has been, we decided to start having three shows a week and add more crew members to welcome new ideas," sophomore Brandon Vickrey said.

On Tuesdays Jenna Grish and Morgan Jackson host Jem Entertainment which is a show targeted towards teenaged girls to give them helpful styling tips and how to appeal more to girls.

"We wanted to be able to reach out to more people and more interests, so we came up with a couple new shows to get the attention of a different audience and that we do not just care about sports," Brandon Vickery said

Thursdays are Portage High School Today and National News with Haley Bradford, Rachel Santos, Brandon Vickery, and Collin Czilli. This show is the most like the previous year to keep the same viewers happy and informed on many different topics including movie reviews and school updates. It allows people be aware of the next weekends sporting activities and reaches out to the 'average' teens interests.

Fridays Sports Corner is accompanied by Brandon Vickery, David Jercha, and Eric Mesarch who announce top performer picks, updates, and recaps of games past and games to take place.
Story by Kayla J. Mills

"We really tried to make this year better and more appealing to everyone," sophomore Brandon Vickrey said.

Brittany Adams
Katie Adams
Kaitlyn Adkins
Jose Aguilera

Jena Alaniz
Nicole Alberts
Brian Aldaz
Jolynn Almedina

David Almendarez
Maria Alvarez
Megan Ambler
Briana Ammeson

Jennifer Andersen
Chelsea Anderson
Eric Anderson
Kyler Anderson

Laci Anderson
Kapri Andrews
Brianna Angle
Arminda Anguiano

Marcus Appleberry
Susan Arnold
David Arroyo
Santos Arroyo

Brooke Artka
David Aubuchon
Omar Avila
Craig Ayers

Michael Azcona
Erick Baker
Gabriela Balcazar
Taylor Baldwin

Frank Barbosa
Mackenzie Barcelli
Rebecca Barnett
Jaime Barragan
Sarah Batey
Travis Beal
Alexander Becker

Kenneth Beckham
Stevie Beliles
Brandon Bell
Raina Bellow
Vanessa Benak
Tyler Berns
Abby Berquist

Nakayla Best
Jordin Billings
Gregory Birkmeyer
Tyler Blair
Ryan Blakely
Timothy Blakely
Kile Bodo

Megan Bodo
Alyssa Bogolin
Randall Bolde
Tahnea Bolden
Matthew Bolin
Jacob Bomba
Christopher Bowen

Kayla Bowman
Mariah Bowman
Shakiea Boyd
Angelica Bradford
Curtis Bradley
Davis Brady
Shane Brayton

Emily Brinkley
Andrea Briones
Dayon Brown
James Bryant
Angela Buchanan
Joanne Buford
Alexander Buitron

Anthony Buitron
Anthony Bumbales
Scott Burian
Catherine Bylak
Paul Bylen
Jordan Cabral
Breanna Caldwell

Dakota Callender
Heatherrose Calmbacher
Destinie Calo
Gabriella Camacho
Tabitha Camp
Brandon Campbell
Kelsey Canterbury

Ariel Caraballo
Cloe Carda
Souad Carney-Davis
William Carrillo
Jeffrey Carson
Carlos Cartagena
Haley Carter

Patricia Carter
Emily Casella
Angelica Chacon
Christine Chapa
Monica Chavez
Rafael Chavez
Vivian Chavez

Marcella Cherry
Austin Church
Kassandra Cisarik
Jose Claudio
Alexis Cleveland
Evan Clifford
Kimberly Coffey

Logan Cole
Rashaan Coleman
Nashelly Collazo
Brandon Collins
Devyn Cooper
Maranda Cooper
Danielle Coppinger

Veronica Coppinger
Lorenzo Corralez
Ty Crawford
Crysta Crews
Brandi Criswell
Gavin Criswell
Emmanuel Cuadrado

Ricki Cuevas
Lyndsey Cunningham
Whitney Currin
Gage Cuthbert
Collin Czilli
Julie Daniels
Geena Darnell

Justina Davaney
Jahnathan Davis
Tyler Davis
Christopher Deboer
Erika Del Valle
Anthony Demaria
Tyler Demko

Ian Deperio
Patrick Derr
Dianna Deyoung
Gerardo Diaz
Alexander Ditola
Andrew Dolan
Lydia Dreckman

Josh Dresbaugh
Katarina Drummond
Kasean Earley
Morgan Eastridge
Kevin Elkins
Brandon Elzinga
Jacob Erdelac

Autumn Escoe
Jorge Espino
Roberto Espinosa
Patrick Esposito
Emily Evans
Samantha Fadely
Monica Farris

Holliann Faulkner
Brian Fausto
Nathan Feeler
Kyle Feeney
Savannah Feeney
Taylor Felinski
Seth Felling

Hannah Fengya
Brian Field
Brandon Fields
Heather Figueroa
Jason Fine
Desirae Fink
Gabriella Fink

Thomas Flanagan
Zakrey Fleming
Breanna Flores
Timothy Ford
Olivia Forrester
Eric Frazier
Brandon Frost

Deondria Fuller
Katrina Fuller
Carly Gajdos
Alexander Galbreath
Adam Gallegos
Daniel Gallina
Michael Galvan

Orlando Gamez
Austin Ganske
Dijon Gant
Cristal Garcia
Brianna Gibson
Cody Gilbert
Ishmael Gipson

Justin Givens
Hannah Glos
Kyle Glover
Rachel Golubovich
Christian Gonzalez
Eric Gonzalez
Rachael Gonzalez

Tyler Gonzalez
Alexis Goodaker
Brandon Goodman
Zachary Goolsby
Zachary Grabill
Stacey Gregorash
Diondre Griffin

Jenna Grish
Courtney Groene
Shawn Gunnum
Austin Hakes
Taylor Hale
Austin Hamang
Cody Hamilton

Max Hammerstein
Emily Hansen
Miranda Hansford
Luke Hardin
Tia Hardison
Meagan Harriman
Rochelle Hatchett

Conner Haupt
Desiree Hayden
Riley Haynes
Brittany Haywood
Leann Hedger
Brandon Hefty
Alexander Heimberg

Brice Henderson
Samantha Hendron
Nathaniel Hennings
Samuel Hensley
Arlette Hernandez
Marissa Herrera
Justin Hill

Lorena Hill
Haley Hodges
Jordan Hoffman
Austin Holt
Mitchell Hooper
Jerath Hopkins
Nathan Householder

Timothy Huber
Jonathan Hudson
Karina Huff
Peyton Hulse
Cory Jacobs
Emily Jahoda
Robert Jancaric

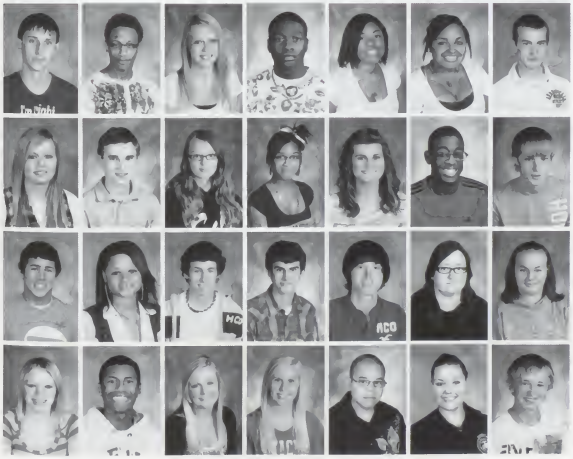
Thomas Janes
Kaylee Jank
Madalyn Jeffers
Natalia Jeffrey
Matthew Jimenez
Brittany Johnson
Teara Johnson

Breaking Away From The Crowd

When asked how these sophomores had to step out from last year to this year, this is what they said.

"I'm still getting used to everyone here. I came here from LaPorte during my freshman year. This is a completely different school and it will still take a while to get to know everyone and get use to all the differences. It will work out though soon," sophomore Haley Carter said.

"It is more difficult to get use to the new classes and now there are all of these new students that I need to get used to. I like my classes and I am sure that the students are not that bad, you just have to get out of your comfort zone to talk to them," sophomore Gabriela Balcazar said.



Bryce Jones
Exvonte Jones
Jayme Jones
Jerron Jones
Jessica Jones
Nikiya Jones
Robert Jones

Caitlin Joyce
Joshua Kane
Alexis Kerr
Desiree Key
Morgan Kilgore
Daniel King
Dylan Kinney

Devin Kludt
Alexis Knight
Tyler Kniola
Eric Konecny
Kodi Kuypers
Jasmine Lambert
Kayla Lambert

Tabitha Langbehn
Anthony Laramie
Bailey Lauritzen
Alison Leach
Michael Leal
Jennifer Leary
Austin Lee

China Lee
Michelle Lewis
Nicholas Lewis
Kaley Liang
Tricia Linderman
Dylan Logsdon
Tyler Loney

Nathan Longstreet
Emilio Lopez
Regina Lopez
Erica Luna
Mark Maddack
Elizabeth Madriz
Armondo Magallan

Crystal Magallanes
Robert Manning
Zachary Manning
Jasmine Marquez
Kaitlyn Marsh
Matthew Martin
Ana Martinez

Anthony Martinez
Arisdelssy Martinez
Joaquin Martinez
Julissa Martinez
Priscilla Martinez-Lule
Anthony Mattis
Nathaniel Maxcy

Gerald McCann
Joshua McClellan
Jeffrey McElfresh
Ryan McFadden
Marissa McGehee
Joseph McHugh
Jade McKnight

Jalise McKnight
Nicholas McWaters
Matthew Meade
Nicole Meade
Jared Mecyssine
Damon Meeks
Shelby Meints

Amanda Mendez
Jeremy Mendoza
Yesenia Mendoza
Judah Mergl
Eric Mesarch
Alec Meyer
Crystal Milam

Lauren Miles
Aleena Mileski
Christina Miller
Ethan Miller
Michaela Miller
Alejandro Miranda
Sairah Mirza

Michael Mischke
Emilija Mizimakoska
Todd Mocabee
Kimberly Mock
Emily Mokol
Nicole Monahan
Cody Moore

Kodie Morales
Katherine Morrison
Trinity Morrison
Skyler Moss
Miles Motto
John Murchek
Mariela Murillo

Samantha Murphy
Lauren Murray
Timothy Murray
Summer Nafus
Mary Nagel
Derek Navardauskas
Shadora Neal

Patrick Neary
Aaron Nelson
Walter Nelson
Justin Newcomb
Jaime Nieto
Anthony Norgan
Derik Novina

Noemi Nuchurch
Shontiel Nunn
Heather O' Mahoney
Brittney O' Reilly
Caitlynn O' Shaughnessy
Tiffany Oldaker
Austin Oldham

Nicollee Olis
Amber Olivieri
David Olivo
Rebecca Ordway
Xavier Orta
Anthony Ortiz
Kyanna Otero

Cole Ozbolt
Heather Paholski
Christian Patten
Lakendra Patten
Kelsie Patton
Alexandra Pavlinac
Austin Pavy

Jani Paxson
Nathaniel Pedroza
Samantha Jo Peek
Katie Peksenak
Jordan Penix
Desiree Perez
Kathy Perez

Claudia Persons
Danielle Petro
Caitlin Pidgeon
Elena Pierce
Kaitlin Pilipovic
Cody Piro
Abigail Pisinski

James Podgorski
Kyle Poe
Amanda Pollock
Austin Polus
Antonio Ponce
Jhovanny Ponce
Karla Prado

Eric Premil
Dorian Prieto
Gregory Prohl
Parkpoom Pronpudpong
Fallon Pugh
James Pullins
Alyssa Quade

Dillon Quigg
Jacob Quiroz
Amber Radtke
Jared Rambo
Johnathan Ramirez
Thomas Rasch
Dominique Rattunde

Alex Raudonis
Tyler Retherford
Macahlia Reyes
Amber Rice
Anthony Rice
Katelyn Richerson
Thomas Richter

Jessica Rico
Riley Rivas
Caleb Rix
Daniel Roach
Maileah Robinson
Cassandra Rocha
Alexandra Rodriguez

Cinthia Rodriguez
Cristian Rodriguez
Gabriella Rodriguez
James Roeune
Deon Rogers
Marcus Rogers
Xavier Rogers

Tabatha Romo
Alyssa Ronco
Alex Rosales
Paige Rospierski
William Rospierski
Corey Ross
Dominic Ruelas

Kelli Russell
Breanna Rutz
Robert Rys
Anthony Samano
Alyssa Sanchez
Heather Sander
Lauryn Sanders

Norman Sanders
Samantha Jean Satriano
Danielle Scartozzi
Jessica Schlimgen
Alexander Schreier
Kaci Schryner
Glenn Schultz

Taylor Searcy
Gage Shane
Lorraine Sheets
Ashley Shine-Tinsley
Alexandria Silva
Skylar Simko
Maria Simms

Caleb Sims
Justin Sintic
Justin Sirbas
Rachel Siska
Jade Sleaford
Sinjin Smelley
Jeffrey Smith

Joshua Smith
Zachary Smith
Stephen Smith-Childress
Brennan Smolar
Samantha Snitchler
Tyler Soberg
Katlyn Sosa

Yanitza Soto
Courtney South
Alexander Sowers
Nicholas Sowers
Jade Spann
James Spence
Jason Spence

Jacob Spencer
Cody Spoolstra
Phillip Stabolito
Caitlin Stanley
Shelby Stanley
Zale Stasak
Ian Stearns

Michaela Steinburg
Bradley Stemple
Jacob Stephenson
Nathaniel Stewart
Rachel Stewart
Christina Stilp
Leah Streetman

Payton Summers
Derrick Swain
Kyle Sweeney
Zachary Swets
Alyssa Tampier
Felicia Tatgenhorst
Jordan Tauber

Kaylan Taylor
Kevin Taylor
Kyle Taylor
Shanice Taylor
Zachary Taylor
Mikaela Terry
Brianne Thews

Kira Thiele
Diane Thomas
Juanita Thomas
Ashley Thompson
Ashley Thompson
Tyler Thompson
Mercedes Thornton

Natalee Tidwell
Raven Tiller
Elizabeth Timm
Clarissa Tokash
Darko Tomeski
Armandina Torres
Jelenys Torres

Julian Torres
Nikola Trajceski
Simona Trajceski
Tasha Travis
Angel Trinidad
Erin Trowbridge
Evyania Tsarnas

Samantha Udchitz
Stephanie Upton
Joshua Urban
Nathan Urchick
Ricardo Valdovinos
Megan Valetich
Ryan Vespo

Brandon Vickrey
Megan Villanueva
Kaitlin Volk
Kaylee Voynovich
Kalani Waddell
Lauren Waite
Kevin Walker

Clarissa Walkowiak
Justin Ward
Anthony Waters
Ashley Watkins
Devon Watson
Krystle Watts
Halee Welp

We all know that ROTC stands for Reserve Officer Training Corps but now it is time to find out what these letters also stand for, to the students.

R

"R stands for respect. You learn to respect others more and learn that everyone is valuable,"sophomore Thomas Richter said.

O

"O is for obedience. This class helps you realize that you are not always in charge and that there is a chain of command," sophomore Bryce Jones said.

T

"T is for training. You cannot take this class and not go through any training. We do a lot of drills and exercises that help us dicipline ourselves," sophomore Joanne Buford said.

C

"C is for commitment. If anyone wants to take this class, they will have to commit to it. This is not a blow off class and you have to work for it," sophomore Jon Hudson.

Brandi West
Nathan Wheale
Karleigh Wheeler
Aaron White
Jacob White
Noell White
Seth White

Megan Whiteside
Simon Whyde
Mackenzie Widener
Ashayla Wilcher
Gabrielle Wilken
Kayla Wilkerson
Stephon Wilkins

J R Williams
Ross Williams
Ryan Wilson
Brooke Wiseman
Tiffany Woloszyn
Elizabeth Workman
Brandon Wozniak

Jacob Wright
Zenobia Wynn
Jazmine Yates
Kyle Yates
Ashley Yester
Sydney Yingst
Lauren Zack

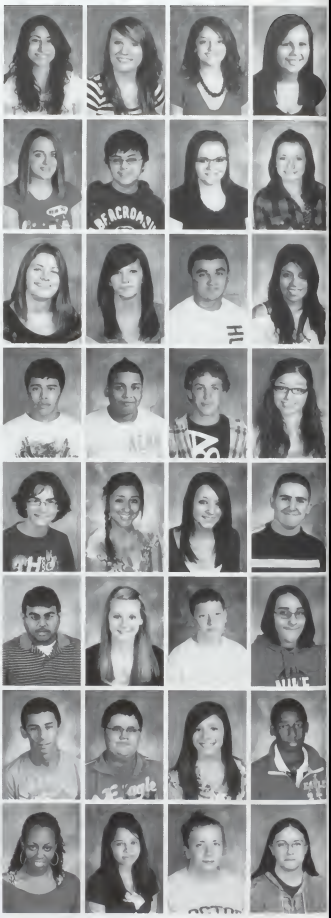
Sierra Zagorac
Elijah Zak
Ashley Zarych
Hilary Zemlik
Heather Zengler
James Ziller
Rebecca Zolkowski

Starting Over

There is a stereotype for when students begin their first year of high school. Many of the upperclassmen find them annoying, unware of "life" around them, and they are nobodies. The truth is, all freshmen are somebodies. They are aware of what is going on around them, and they are not annoying, but just nervous. "Starting out as a freshmen is very difficult. You go from middle school where you knew practically everyone, and then you have to start all over as being the one that isn't known everywhere and you don't know eveybody either," freshmen Nick Jordan said.

Not only do you have to go out of your comfort zone, but you also have to go from one building and two floors, to having two buildings, and three floors. "Adjusting to a new schedule is difficult and overwhelming when having to run back and forth between two buildings and going through all of the people in the halls. Things would probably be easier to find if there were not as many people, but then again that is part of being in high school and growing up. You are not going to be able to know everyone around you, and that makes life interesting," freshmen Brandon Crosby said.

Not only do the students change but so do the teachers. "In middle school, the teachers were not as strict. They cared about what our futures were going to be like, but in high school, they really try to get you excited and prepared for college. Of course there are classes to help prepare us, but the teachers and their examples really help us decided whether or not we want to grow up and be successful. They make this whole four year experience worth it," freshmen Kaylee Nugent said. Next time you are around a freshmen, don't be so quick to judge. You were in their place once, so remember that it is not so easy to be there and have to start all over. Story by Kayla J. Mills



Alexandria Abasi
Bethany Adams
Danelisse Aguilera
Lexus Aguilera

Taylor Ailes
Brendon Alatorre
Emily Albee
Sabrina Alcocer

Mackenzie Aldrich
Rachel Allsbury
Maximillian Almedina
Cassandra Alvarez

Carlos Anaya
Fabian Anaya
Daniel Andersen
Cassandra Anderson

Rocco Angone
Alejandra Aragon
Dannielle Arndt
James Ashford

Muhammad Atiq
Josephine Auksel
Adam Ayala
Charles Azcona

Dustin Balboa
Giovanni Balderas
Ashley Barnas
Andrew Barnes

Simone Barnes
Maribel Barragan
Makayla Barton
Sara Baturoni

Tayler Bauer
Douglas Bauswell
Jeremiah Beamon
Jacob Bearss
Joseph Becerra
David Becker
Mandie Becker

Meaira Bennett
Kelsey Benson
Kailey Berman
Tracy Bermingham
Stephen Berridge
Anthony Best
Carl Bilderback

Cody Binkley
Brandon Binns
Oliver Bishop
Valerie Black
Emilio Blackwell
Matthew Bliss
Karah Bogan

Ian Boltze
Zacheriah Boyd
Cash Bradford
Justine Brasseur
Marisa Bravo
Amanda Brayton
Madison Brewer

Skyler Brewer
Alexandria Brock
De`Ja Brown
Jarren Brown
Kaila`La-Shai Brown
Cody Bruns
Elijah Bryant

Jason Bryant
Joseph Burdett
Victoria Burgos
Andrew Burke
Dontrell Burnett Core
Kayla Burns
Nicholas Butera

Michael Butrym
Lorissa Byrley
Christian Cafin
Angelica Calvin
Jacqueline Cardenas
Shantia Carprue
Kristina Carr

Christopher Cathey
Jacqueline Cauley
Hannah Cawthon
Lilliana Cayetano
Kyle Cesare
Zachary Chandler
Alton Chappell

Brittney Chase
Miguel Chavez
Leah Cheek
Peaches Chunn
Megan Churry
Taylor Cibock
Grace Cisneros

Jacqueline Clark
David Clegg
Josh Cleveland
Alec Coates
Justin Coats
Taylor Colbert
Darien Cole

Darrius Coleman
Louis Coleman
Nancy Contreras
Megan Cook
Morghan Cooper
William Cooper
Mason Coopwood

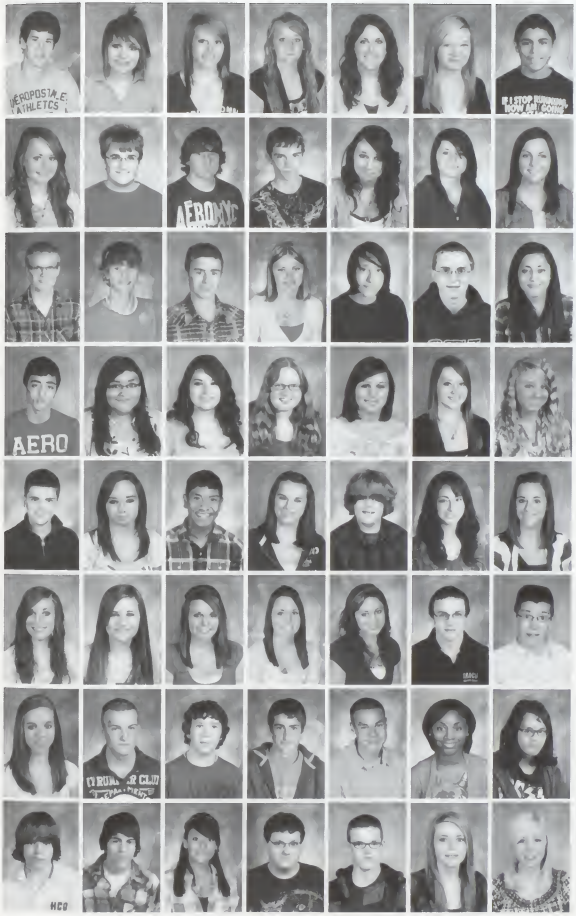
Kara Coots
Christopher Cordray
Jacob Cortina
Meagan Costello
Jeremiah Craft
Jonathan Craig
Sarah Crane

Carl Crayton
Cody Crile
Brandon Crosby
Keanna Crum
Natalia Cruz
Jenna Csepp
Anthony Cuchinski

Talia Cuellar
Haley Cummings
Ryan Cummings
Jordan Cunningham
Carlos Curiel
Maximillian Danko
James Davis

Makayla Davis
Nayla Davis
Jaylon Dee
Yalissa Dejesus
Michael Del Real
Austin Delarosa
Alyssa Delgado

Michael Delgado
Mario Delvalle
Krista Denvit
Jonathan Dery
Jose Diaz
Kylan Dill
Iniko Dixon



Andrew Djordjevich
Angela Dornbos
Randi Dougherty
Sadie Draves
Kelly Dube
Morgan Duffy
Juan Duque

Dana Dutcher
Lucas Dvorscak
Martin Eagan
Gage Eason
Krystal Eastman
Tessa Edmonds
Allyson Edwards

Kyle Edwards
Nickolas Eftenoff
Mark Eierman
Sarah Elencik
Dalton Elkins
Joseph Epley
Janee Escobedo

Louis Escobedo
Martha Esparza
Ana Espinoza
Steffanie Etheridge
Alexandria Evans
Ember Evans
Jena Fabion

David Faitak
Hannah Falcetta
John Fannin
Kimberly Fech
Brett Feehan
Christina Figueroa
Taylor Fine

Tanika Fink
Courtney Finnearty
Kaitlin Fisher
Nicolette Fisher
Rachel Flatt
Koltyn Fleck
Aidan Fletcher

Janelle Fletcher
James Fonner
Cory Ford
Isaac Foreman
Kyle Forney
Amanie Foster
Leslie Foy

Travis Frazier
John Frederick
Maxine Fredrickson
Timothy Freeman
Adam Friedrich
Meagan Froman
Aubrey Frye-Anderson

Jordan Gales
Stephanie Galey
Yvette Galvan
Robert Garbart
Abigail Garcia
Lidia Garcia
Victor Garcia

Kristen Garfias
Craig Garzella
Alex Geros
Xavier Gilliam
Tiffany Glaser
Joshua Glass
Kendall Glover

Zachery Goetz
Zachary Golab
Elizabeth Gomez
Ivana Gomez
Jacob Gomez
Jessica Gomez
Stephanie Gonzalez

Tyler Gonzalez
Collin Graber
Keandre Grady
Tricia Graveline
Jade Greenberg
Jeffrey Gregorash
Casmire Griffen

Ryan Griffith
Arek Gulledge
Matthew Gunnum
Brandon Gutierrez
Jose Gutierrez
Donn Guzzino
Miranda Hale

Justin Hall
Jessica Haro
Tyler Harris
Paige Harrison
Jordan Harrop-Haywood
Jessica Hart
Da`Sheanna Harvey

Heather Harwood
Kentrell Hatton
Amanda Haupt
Shelby Hawkins
Andrew Hayden
Luke Hayden
Courtney Hayes

Griffin Hayes
Ryan Hayes
Kevin Healy
Deve`On Hegwood
Daniel Henker
Tyler Henninger
Jeffrey Henry

Time to Get Cooking

High School helps students prepare for their future, not only academic wise, but also in everyday life.

High school offers students to take classes such as cooking, sewing, child development, and more. One of the more popular everyday life classes is Nutrition and Wellness. This class is especially popular among freshmen and is a class that helps people focus on their class work. Story by Kayla Mills

Sophomore Gabrielle Wilken, and freshman Chris Herald and Lauren Tomaszewski bake biscuits in one of Katie Ewoldt's nutrition and wellness class. Photo provided by Katie Ewoldt

Jordan Henson
Christopher Herald
Juan Hernandez
Sarah Hernandez
Jacob Hertl
Kyle Hetzer
Christian Hewitt

Hailee Hicks
John Higgins
Ariel Hill
Bradley Hill
Samuel Hill
Hannah Hilzley
Cody Hinds

Ronald Hoard
Charlotte Hock
Ashley Hoeckelberg
Christopher Hoffman
Alyssa Hojnacki
Cody Holden
Willie Holloway

Cynthia Holt
Mason Hooper
Felicia Hubbard
Mckaela Huebner
Kiera Hughes
Sarah Hunt
Marcus Huntsman

Casie Hurni
Caleb Ingersoll
Tristen IVak
Brooke Jackson
Joseph Jackson
Markitta Jackson
Shannon James

Thomas Janes
Brady Janovitz
Dakota Janus
Monica Jeffrey
Briana Jenkins
Alex Jimenez
Alexis Johnson

Houston Johnson
Jasmine Johnson
Nathan Johnson
Nathaniel Johnson
Robert Johnson
Tiana Johnson
Hunter Jones

Mackenzie Jones
Randall Jones
Victoria Jones
Nicholas Jordan
Andre Joseph
Courtney Joseph
Teppanid Junyanid

Monika Kajmakoska
Charles Kalberer
Matthew Kaurich
Caitlin Kee
Sara Kemper
Rebecca Kenealy
Olivia Kerr

Dilan Kettwig
Samuel Keyl
Andrew Kimbrough
Alex King
Brandon Kirk
Amber Kiser
Luke Kizer

Christopher Klenk
Tyler Knotts
Jakeb Kociara
Tara Kostelnik
Brittany Kozlowski
Caroline Kozlowski
Kammy Kozol

Christina Krajefska
Sierra Krajefska
Kaitlyn Krise
Roy Kupiainen
Cody Kupiec
Jordan Kwiatkowski
Samantha Langbehn

Hope Lange-Sanchez
Kendall Lankford
Bradley Larson
Ashley Latham
Michael Lattanzi
Briana Laviena
Nicholas Lay

Anthony Lee
Nicholas Lee
Timothy Leib
Taylor Leslie
Thomas Lewandowski
Devin Lewis
Joshua Lewis

Erin Lichnerowicz
Sarah Linderman
Darrien Lindsay
Hannah Lindsey
David Littleton
Ian Lloyd
James Lloyd

Tristan Lloyd
Briana Lobins
Blake Logsdon
Julian Lopez
Arika Lovall
Cameron Lowery
Jessica Loza

Nicholas Lucas
Aaron Luick
Mykel Lundy
Daniel Lunn
Andres MaCias
Tyler MaCk
Jamie Major

Rachel Major
Andrew Malarik
Cody Maldonado
Rosa Maldonado
Garrett Maples
Geoffrey Marcotte
Conor Markle

Jessica Marshall
Alejandra Martinez
Mauricio Martinez
Kataryna Martinez-Paris
Madison Marx
Mark Mason
Andrew Matney

Mariah Maupin
Haley McBride
Glen McCammon
Montrell McClain
Salina McConnell
Ashley McDaniels
James McDonald

Tiffany McGovern
Brittany McGrath
Taylor McKinley
Tiana McQueen
Vince Meade
Hannah Medina
Alexander Mendoza

Jesse Mendoza
Victure Mendoza
Destiny Mensing
Leigha Mercer
Drew Merkley
Kenneth Mezydlo
Alyssa Miiller

Alicia Miko
Cherrelle Milledge
Catherine Miller
Kelsey Miller
Sidney Miller
Arely Miranda
Jomari Miranda

Taylor Mlynski
Caitlyn Moore
David Moore
Kaitlin Moore
Taylor Mora
Brittany Morganelli
Patricia Mota

Salvador Mota
Krystal Mulzon
Dillon Munoz
Cathryn Murchek
Juan Murillo
Megan Murphy
Natalia Nacovski

Sarah Nasiatka
Colby Neace
Rodney Neal
De' Juan Nelson
David Novreske
Darien Nowells
Kaylee Nugent

Angelica Nunez
Michael O' Daniel
Stephanie O' Drobinak
Caitlin O' Quinn
Mariah Ogden
Andrew Orona
Cameron Orosz

Cody Ortiz
David Ortiz
Rachel Ortiz Zabloudil
Olivia Padilla
Daniel Palcek
Jessica Palos
Christopher Papan

Claire Pardo
Derrick Parker
Jordan Parker
Ariana Partin
Dhruv Patel
Heer Patel
Devonte Patrick

Ashley Patterson
Alexander Paugh
Jennifer Paulson
Ariella Pearman
Gage Pearman
Christopher Peebles
Elias Peek

Tammie Peeler
Cameron Penrose
Maigen Perdulovski
Jesenia Perez
Christopher Perry
Laura Pethes
Rachel Petyo

Christopher Pickering
Sierra Piro
Paige Pizer
Jerry Plenius
Amanda Pogue
Derrik Pope
Brooke Potts

Jordan Potts
Ebony Powell
James Powell
Eric Pratt
Jeremy Pratts
Katie Price
Peter Psomadelis

Spenser Quade
Sarah Quinton
Sara Quiroz
Ayana Rael
Lindsey Rambo
Corina Ramirez
Brittany Ramos

Miguel Ramos
Kayla Rapsky
Benjamin Raya
Alex Reber
Zakary Reddington
Robert Redlark
Curtis Redmon

Dakota Reeves
Brandon Rempis
Kirsten Replinger
Kaitlyn Rice
Henry Richardson
Justin Ricker
Aryia Ried

Freshmen Have School Spirit!

Freshman Mariah Wright has shown school spirit by particpaiting in the sports offered here at school. She is in volleyball, basketball and tennis.

Freshman Keil Vittoe says he definitely has school spirit by doing a lot of superfanning and partcipating in all kinds of activities. "I enjoy participating and because it will just make high school better."

Freshman Brandon Crosby says that he shows his school spirit by wears all kinds of Portage gear and is on the cross country, track, and diving team.

Freshman Brooklin Sellers explaines why freshmen have school spirit. "We go to a lot of games and also purchase a lot of school gear, such as shirts and sweatshirts. We also show school spirit with our attitude."

Brendan Rios
Rebecca Rivas
Mitchell Roach
T'Ona Roberson
Matthew Roberts
Alexander Rocha
Desire' Rodriguez

Diashana Rodriguez
Emmanuel Rodriguez
Jonah Rodriguez
Kingston Rogers
Ryan Rogers
Shawna Rogyom
Kenyota Rollins

Joseph Roman
Corey Romanowski
Jessica Rosado
Xavier Rosales
Mercedes Rosario
Brianna Rossworn
Rachel Roytan

Aeriel Rozwara
Christopher Russell
Cody Russell
Edgar Saavedra
Amanda Sacek
Sidney Sako
Shawn Salazar

Jacqueline Salazar-Marvel
Drake Samano
Dustin Samano
Destiny Sams
Alex Sanchez
Jaylen Sanders
Sara Saunders

Jeremy Savage
Samuel Schest
Michael Schultz
Kyle Schwalm
Brooklynn Sellers
Christopher Serrano
Katie Shadley

Brook Shane
Breanna Shell
Christa Shepherd
Ashlee Showalterbaugh
Jone Sibakoski
Cole Sills
Hashim Simpson

Teijhaun Skelton
Ashlyn Slavik
Adrianne Smith
Brandon Smith
Torionn Smith
Austin Smitka
Rachel Smock

Patrick Sobkowski
Noah Sobocinski
Danielle Solis
Kodi Soloman
Kameron Sorensen
Ashley Sosbe
Dominique Soto

Destiny Spann
Justin Spear
Kevin Srednoselac
Kristen Stabolito
Ashley Staley
Emily Stanley
Krisara Starke

Mckenzy Starr
Megan Statler
Eric Stearns
Valerie Stepaniak
Autumn Stevenson
Matthew Stull
Lucas Sullivan

Shannon Summers
Michael Sutkowski
Darren Svitko
Nathaniel Swier
Tyler Swindle
Jordyn Szakacs-Darnell
Carlton Taillon

Mustafa Tate
Tre' Von Tate
Alexys Taylor
Kennedy Taylor
Jaylyn Tellez
Krista Tellez
Jacob Thielbar

David Thomas
Lauryn Thompson
Christopher Ticen
Matthew Timmons
Omar Tinoco
Oscar Tinoco
Xavier Todd

Lauren Tomaszewski
Elijah Torres
Stefani Trajceski
Jordan Trent
Dakota Trial
Gemel Tribble
Devon Trice

Bianca Trinidad
Dylan Tsoris
Jessica Tuholski
Richard Tuomi
Devin Turney
Zachary Tuthill
Brenna Uporsky

Casey Uran
Devin Valpatic
Stephanie Vance
Hannah Vandermolen
John Vann
Joshua Vann
Skylar Vardaman

Russell Vasile
Joshua Vasquez
Cameron Vaughan
Jazmynne Vawter
Faith Velasquez
Hope Velasquez
Jada Velasquez

Jonathan Velez
China Venson
Alyssa Vicari
Keil Vittetoe
Brook Vogan
Jacqueline Volk
Noah Volk

Shelby Vuko
Andrew Waddell
Zackary Walford
Carolyn Walker
Michael Walsh
Nicole Walton
Caylee Warford

Tiara Washington
Chelsea Wathen
Jordan Wattles
Jessica Watts
Ali Waugh
Mirisa Weathers
Shaquille' Weathersby

Craig Weinberger
Alexandra Weiser
Christian Wells
Lorenzo Wells
Alex Welshan
Sarah West
Dayzha Wheeler

Jordan Wheeler
Jamila White
Whitney White
John Whitney
Aaron Widing
Spencer Wiggins
Zachary Wigsmoen

Lauren Wilk
Christopher Williams
Clayborn Williams
Clayton Williams
Dion Williams
Jacob Williams
Keantay Williams

Sydney Williams
Travis Williams
Aric Wilson
Riely Winters
Kevin Wishecoby
Michael Wisniewski
Deanna Wood

Joseph Wood
Megan Wood
Breyanna Woodruff-Tyler
Noel Workman
Mark Wotell
Alyssa Wozniak
Joshua Wright

Mariah Wright
Jazmine Yates
Jamie Young
Savannah Yuhasz
Marissa Zambrana
Alondra Zamora
Julijana Zatorski

Mackenzie Zeck
Elizabeth Zeller
Hannah Zemlik
Alberto Zepeda
Taylor Zerby
Gabrielle Ziulkowski

Transportation Systems

A course that PHS offers to its students is a transportation systems class. This class is just what it sounds like. In this class, students will get to learn about different methods of transportation and how ways of travel have changed over time. For example, people over time have looked at specialy made cars and how they started out at a record speed of 35 mph. Now they have reached a record speed over 700 mph.

This class is not all about learning how to get around and record speeds of boats, cars, trains and planes, but to also learn what goes into making these forms of transportation. During this class students have the opportunity to fly a plane with a pilot on a field trip.

"Each time this field trip is taken, students always walk away with having a much better understanding transporation. Students that are interested in any carreer that involves this training and knowledge should take this class," transportation systems teacher John Kappes said. Story by: Kayla J. Mills

Jacob Ahlborn
Heidi Babcock
Joseph Bachan
Stacy Bachman
Sarah Barber

Jodi Barney
Diana Beatty
Robert Beigh
Amy Bertalan
Edwin Bowers

Deb Broom
Michele Bundridge
Amy Burke
Shirley Bustos
Candis Carey

Beth Carl
Carrie Carlson
Heather Castle
Joshua Cavan
Lois Chalmers-Macmillian

Amanda Childers-Martin
Earl Coleman
Lance Corkwell
Sandy Corso
Stephanie Crook

Fred Crowe
Lynette Dean
Melissa Deavers-Lowie
Rae Disco
Rhonda Doane

Diane Dominguez
James Downes
Mary Ann Eckhart
Deborah Gannon
Kevin Giese

Elizabeth Gilfillan
Julie Goetz
Melanie Gordon
Micholas Haas
Andrew Halaschak

John Hall
Gretchen Hargarten
Teresa Hart
Sandra Herr
Marcia Hobart
Jay Hodges
Lynda Hodges

Tami Hudson
Kathleen Hull
Amanda Isakson
Shannon Johnson
John Johnston
Robert Kania
Ashley Kappes

John Kappes
Charity Kehoe
Tami Kepshire
Leslee Kretz
Richard Kretz
Tim Kunstek
Michael Lipinski

Barbara Lochmondy
Carrie Martin-Smith
Carrie McGinty
Patrick Mills
Patrick Moody
Dawn Moseley
Lisa Moser

Michelle Mullins
Helen Mundell
Brett Munden
Marston Mundt
Arlene Neill
Brenda Nowosad
Marian Pack

Robert Parker
Sheila Parker
Linda Peda
Sebrena Pickering
Scott Piersma
Brooke Platt
Angelic Ramos

Jill Redmon
Jennifer Reilly
Wanda Rice
Aaron Riegle
Diana Rivera
Maria Roach
Katrina Ross

Kara Rupcich
Millie Ruzbasan
Jennifer Sass
Kevin Sayler
Darryl Schultz
Marjorie Slamkowski
Marcia Soyster

Michael Spagna
Barbara Spitler
Lisa Spoolstra
Alisha Stark-Yeo
Heidi Thibideau
Gail Trobaugh
Renee' Turpa

Paula Wiese
Kristin Wieshahn
Barbara Williams
Wayne Williamson
Jennifer Wilson
Lynn Wilson
John Zack

Break

1. The boys wrestle to finish their match strong.

2. Senior Abby Clark gets ready to serve for a winning round.

3. Freshman Rachel Oritz- Zabloudil hits the ball, taking for first base.

Photos by Jillian Talley

ng Expectations

Jake Dixon jumps into fellow team mate Joey Little's arms after scoring his second consecutive touchdown bringing Portage a victory against Michigan City Wolves at this year's homecoming. Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Mishawaka Marion	W 27-2	Chesterton	W 34-20
St. Rita	L 0-22	Michigan City	W 34-7
Lake Central	W 20-14	Valparaiso	L 7-27
Merrillville	L 27-38	LaPorte	W 27-14
Crown Point	L 7-24	Crown Point (Sectional)	L 21-23

The Portage Indians and Michigan City Wolves line up to begin the play. Photo By Jillian Talley

What does **PFND** mean to you?

"Football keeps going the, game never stops."
-Gage Pearman, 9

"Hard work, that is what the city (Portage) is."
-Rashaan Coleman, 10

"Never give up."
-Kris Knies, 11

"Fight through the whole game. Never give up."
-Brian Barnas, 12

Football team experiences a new year and new goals

The 2010 football season was one of newest; new records, new coach and new bleachers.

Senior Jake Dixon broke a school record by rushing 378 yards in one game.

"I was shocked when I found out. I didn't even know; the reporter told me. I didn't even think I was at 300 let alone 378," Dixon said.

New head coach Jeromy Flowers came to Portage with five years of experience as a head coach, as well as high expections for Portage Football.

"I wanted us to win the DAC," Flowers stated.

Flowers said the trasition to Portage was easy, however, the hardest part was getting all the players back into the attitude to win and to know that they could do it.

"The hardest part was getting all the players back into the attitude to win and to know that they could do it."

Head Coach Jeromy Flowers

Along with a new head coach came new bleachers for the football field. After the old bleachers were condemned, the corporation approved the construction of new bleachers for the field. The project cost over $1 million.

There are many new songs and dances to go along with the School Song and the Big Red Rumble. Students now do "the tomahawk chop" after each touchdown and "Jump Around" at the begining of the third quarter.

Story By Sarah Dienes

Seniors Mike Schiller and Tristian Pearman listen to Coach Sam Bernardi in a defensive team huddle during a time out. Photo By Jillian Talley

The varsity team gets into a huddle prior to the game against LaPorte. During the game Dean Anderson scored two goals and Ben Dvorscak scored one goal. Photo By Jillian Talley

Boys soccer steps up to the Challenge

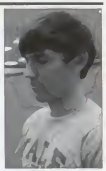
This year there were many boys who stepped up to the field to help the Indians put up a fight against the schools rival Lake Central in the Semi- State finals. Portage lost to Lake Central in tough game 0-4. Although the season did not end as the team would have liked, the team had an amazing season. Finishing the year 17-5-1 and being 4-3 in the Duneland Athletic Conference. The boys also came home being Sectional Champs and Regional Champs. Senior, Brendon Swindle said that his biggest accomplishment this year was making it to Semi-State beacause, it was spectactular. Key seniors such as Brendon Swindle, Christian Cherry, Dean Anderson, Ricardo Silva, and four others will be a hard loss on the team, however; freshmen, Nate Johnson, will help carry the Indians the next three years.

Story By Sarah DIenes

"Making it to semi state was my biggest accomplishment, it was spectactular!"
Senior Brendon Swindle

Who do you look up to?

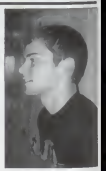
"My dad, becuase, he helps me."
-Nathan Johnson, 9



"Coach Strom because, he motivates me.."
-Alex Becker, 10

"Coach Strom, becuase, he played college soccer and that is what I want to do."
-Donovone Cole, 11

"My two older brothers for their athletic achevements in highschool and college."
-Christian Cherry, 12



The varsity team lines up facing the crowd as they wait for the announcer to call out their names before the game. The Indians were competing against the LaPorte Slicers who they beat 3-1. Photo By Jillian Talley

Junior varsity soccer players warm up by kicking the ball before the game. Photo By Jillian Talley

Senior Brendon Swindle jumps in the air to hit a header ball. Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Munster	W 4-3	Chesterton	W 2-1
South Bend St. Joe	L 0-3	Highland	W 2-0
South Bend Adams	T 2-2	Valparaiso	L 1-4
Andrean	W 3-0	Culver	W 4-1
Lake Central	L 0-4	Merrillville	W 2-1
Michigan City	W 4-1		
Hobart	W 5-1	Michigan City (Sectional)	W 4-1
LaPorte	W 3-1		
Griffith	W 3-0	LaPorte (Sectional)	W 2-1
Marquette	W 4-1		

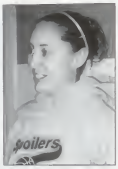
Freshman Natalia Nacovski attemps to make a steal from the opposing team, Valparaiso. Nacovski is one of only four freshman on the varsity team.
Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Crown Point	L 2-5	Highland	W 3-2
Munster	W 2-1	Chesterton	L 0-2
Lake Central	L 3-4	Mishawaka	
Greenfield		Marion	L 0-2
Central	L 0-2	Valparaiso	L 2-2
Pike	L 2-4	South Bend	
Michigan		St. Joe	L 0-5
City	W 2-1	Hobart	T 1-1
LaPorte	W 4-0	Merrillville	W 6-1

What were your EXPECTATIONS for this year?

"Do good, practice and win it all."
-Natilia Nacovski, 9



"I wanted to score a goal and go far."
-Nikki Monahan, 10

"I just wanted our team to do good this year."
-Annie Stonsack,11

"It rough this year, we lost some of our key players, this season was good!"
-Abby Clark, 12

Sophomore Nikki Monahan dribbles down the field. Monahan had an assist with Tori Bliss during the Portage vs. Valparaiso game. Portage lost in a tie againt the Vikings. Photo By Jillian Talley

Underclassmen say goodbye to valuable senior players

This year the senior girls shined. Tori Bliss, Carly Bermes, Kristen Ashby, and Ashley Smith showed their hearts by finishing the year strong. Bliss helped the Indians tremendously by blocking an average of 13 saves per game. The MVP for the 2010 season was Bermes.

Senior Abby Clark said that it was a tough year because the team lost a lot of key players last year. However, this year the varsity team alone will be losing ten players.

However, there were many young girls that stepped up to help out this year and will do so again next year. Sophomore Nikki Monahan showed what she could do by helping and assisting the team.

"It was a rough year, we lost a lot of key players." Abby Clark, 12

Story By Sarah Dienes

Senior Carly Bermes "power kicks" the ball for a goal. Bermes along with Ashley Smith had one goal each. Photo By Jillian Talley

Senior Tori Bliss looked for an open offense player to throw the ball back into the game against the Valparaiso Vikings. Photo By Jillian Talley

Members of the Varsity team sit on the sideline to watch and cheer on the Junior Varisty players. At after school matches, while watching games, team members do homework to save a late night. Photo By Jillian Talley

Varsity Volleyball Team Breaks even overall

Hard work paid off for the vollyball girls this year. Although some goals were not met for the team, the overall average improved greatly from the previous season. The team is not the only thing that improved, Senior, Alicia Ciesielski proved how hard she worked this summer by being recognized as MVP for volleyball as well as being given the chance to try out for the Indiana All Star team. When asked how she did at the try outs Ciesielski said, "I did not make it, but it was a fun experience."

"It was a fun expierence!" Senior, Alicia Ciesielski

Story By Sarah Dienes

The varsity team celebrates together after the game. Although the team lost, the girls kept up high spirts to come back and win the next game the lady indians had. Photo By Jillian Talley

Volleyball Vocabulary

Bumps, sets, spikes, aces... what does it all mean? If these volleyball terms confuse you, the following members of the team have demonstrated good technique to help you out!

Jessica Someson,12

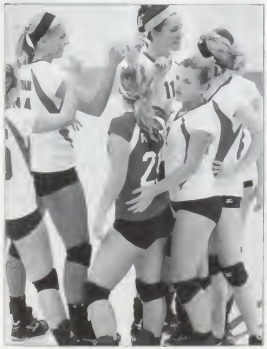
Kacie McGuire, 11

Carli Piro, 11

Varsity Squad

Junior, Kacie McGuire sets the ball for another player on the team to prepare for a spike. Kacie helped the Indians a lot during the season along with Brittany Doll, Alicia Ciesielski, Tina Golden, and Haley Snyder with outstanding match performances. Photo By Jillian Talley

Junior, Catilyn Byrd and Senior, Jessica Someson block together during a home game against Crown Point. The lady Indians lost a tough game to the bulldogs 0-3. Photo By Jillian Talley



SCOREBOARD

Andrean	L 1-3	Crown Point	L 0-2
Hobart	W 3-2	New Prairie	L 0-2
Morton	W 3-0		
Boone Grove	W 3-0	Michigan City	L 1-2
Chesterton	W 3-2	Merrillville	W 2-0
Valparaiso	L 0-3	Lowell	L 0-3
Lake Central	L 1-3	LaPorte	L -03
Michigan City	W 3-0	Munster	L 1-3
Crown Point	L 0-3	Lake Central	L 0-3
Merrillville	L 2-3	Michigan City	W 3-1
Highland	W 3-2	Crown Point	L 0-3
Chesterton	L 2-3	Merrillville	W 3-2
Valparaiso	L 1-3		

Freshmen Paige Pizer runs in the DAC race. This is only Pizer's second year ever running cross country. Her first year was on eighth grade cross country team. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Paige Mulle, senior Rachel Formen, juniors Megan Cassidy and Abby Trader pace themselves in the middle of the race. Photo by Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Gavit Invite	W	Valparaiso	L
Merrillville	W 49-15	Lake Central	L
Harrison Invite	6th place	Culver Invite	17th place
Crown Point	L 27-28		
LaPorte	W 44-19	Sectional	2nd place
Michigan City	W 47-16	Regional	2nd place
Chesterton	W 31-24	Semi-State	6th place
New Prairie Invite	3rd place		

Junior Abby Trader approaches the finish line while a spectator cheers her on to the finish. Photo by Jillian Talley

Racing to the Finish

Finishing the season with a 32-8 record, 4-3 in the DAC, the girls cross country team showed great improvement.

In only the second race of the season, they scored a perfect 15, sweeping the top six spots and 12 of the top 13. The year was filled with personal bests and new runners stepping up to lead the group.

In just her very first race on the team, Paige Pizer placed third, which would set the pace for her all season. Paige's only previous experience was running cross country in eighth grade.

"I didn't run in sixth or seventh grade but I started in eighth. I loved in then so I figured I would try out my freshman year," Pizer said.

The team will be looking very strong with them only losing two seniors. The juniors have a very strong core of girls going into their senior year, and many stepped up this year when they were needed. The team will be in very good hands going into next year.

Story by Adam Coffman

"I didn't run in sixth or seventh grade but i started eighth grade. I love in then I figure i would try out my freshman year".
Paige Pizer, 9

Junior Brianne Cipich races to the finish line, pacing herself through the DAC race. Photo by Jillian Talley

Cross Paths with the Fastest 5

Paige Pizer
Freshman

Megan Cassidy
Junior

Abby Trader
Junior

Salina McConnell
Freshman

Rachel Foreman
Senior

Younger team able to finish season with winning record

With a strong showing of freshmen to the team and the experience of the upper classmen, the boys cross country team ended an impressive 60-18 record and 4-3 in the DAC. The team was led by efforts of everyone. The team will only be losing one senior next year.

"I always good at running and my sister was a runner too. That's why I decided to run cross country." **Robert Blackwell, 11**

The season was filled with new personal records and new runners to complete the team.

Freshman Anthony Best wasted no time breaking onto the scene taking fifth in his first race and coming in second for the Portage runners.

Throughout the year the team showed improvement the entire season. One of the returning runners is junior Robert Blackwell, who has run cross country all throughout middle school.

"I was always good at running and my sister was a runner too. That's why I decided to cross country," Blackwell said.

With dedication like this the team will be in great hands. The team no doubt had the depth this year and it will only get better in the years to come.

Story By Adam Coffman

Senior Ross Falk races to the finish class during the meet at Woodland Park. Photo by Jillian Talley

Freshmen David Clegg passes a student on the other team as he nears finishing the race. Photo by Jillian Talley

Ready, set, go! Members of the boys cross country team race to finish in the DAC conference meet. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomore Zachary Swets finishes the race strong. Photo by Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Gavit Invite	W	New Prairie Invite	8th place
Merrillville	W 36-25		
Harrison Invite	9th place	Valparaiso	L 21-36
Crown Point	W 31-24	Lake Central	W 40-17
LaPorte	L 17-41	DAC Meet	7th place
Michigan City	W 47-16	Sectional	5th place
Chesterton	L 23-33	Regional	4th place

Junior, Jessica Morris warms up with sophomore, Mackenzie Barcelli. The girls chip, putt, and swing before each match. Morris was named this years most improved player. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomore, Lauren Murray practices her putting before a match. Murray was a key role for the varsity team this year. Murray was the match medalist at the Hobart and Hanover match. Photo by Jillian Talley

very *superstitious*

According to members of the golf team, winning takes more than just skill. Below, five members disclose their routines that they must go through prior to a meet.

1. "My golf balls always have to be Callaways 1's or 4's."
Sarah Dienes, 12

2. "Have a good laugh with the team right before a match."
Emily Dominguez, 11

3. "Sing out on the golf course."
Mackenzie Barcelli, 10

4. "Listen to my iPod while I practice."
Lauren Murray, 10

5. "Relax in the club house before the other tem gets here."
Gabby Ziulkowski, 9

Senior, Jackie Arnold and junior, Emily Dominguez walk to the first hole together. Photo by Jillian Talley

Underclassmen, one senior step up throughout tough year

This year the girls golf team had one major struggle: a young team. After losing seniors from the previous year, freshman and sophomores had to step up.

Sophomores Lauren Murray and Mackenzie Barcelli pushed during the off season and became the number two and three positions. Juniors Emily Dominguez and Jessica Morris showed major improvements to fill out the rest of the team.

Senior Sarah Dienes helped the younger ones during the season to prepare them for next year. Dienes, was an individual qualifier for Regionals but came six strokes short from making it to semi-state.

" It was tough... especially becasue it was my last year to make it out." Sarah Dienes, 12

"It was tough to know all I had to do was par out. Especially because it was my last year to make it out," Dienes said. Dienes is not the only one leaving; Marian Pack, the head coach, has also decided to leave to spend more time with her family.

Story by Kendra Becker

SCOREBOARD

Lake Central Invite	8th place	Valparaiso	L
Plymouth Invite	10th place	Hobart/Hanover	W
Kankakee Valley Invite	15th place	Crown Point	L
		Merrillville	W
Rensselaer	13th place	Michigan City	W
DAC Invite	6th place	Chesterton	L
Lake Central	L	Lowell	L

Senior Jacquelyn Arnold contentrates on putting the ball to score. Photo by Jillian Talley

In need of some serious *Relaxation*

"I just concentrate on what I'm going to do."
-John Craig, 9

"Just listening to music and chilling."
-Patrick Derr, 10

"I listen to my iPod and eat Subway."
-Shub Multani, 11

"I squeeze a tennis ball and listen to my iPod."
-Kyle Tampier, 12

Senior Kyle Tampier is pumped and ready to finish at the top in boys tennis. Photo by Jillian Talley

Juniors Aaron Lopez and James Brasseur attend boys tennis to Super Fan for their close friend, Zac Lundy, during a tournament. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Joey Todd waits to receive a serve during a tennis match this year. Photo by Jillian Talley

Strong core of players leads to even record in DAC

There was something in the air this year when the boys tennis team took the court in early August. They had a strong core of seniors, juniors and the help of one sophomore. The team finished the season with a winning record of 13-6 and 3-3 in the DAC.

Keeping with tradition from years past, before every practice and match, the team would stretch or just talk to coaches Gary Hayes or Joe White. The team set high expectations for the season by getting farther than sectionals and regionals, and just improve as a team.

"We got better as a team, and ended the season with a winning record," senior Joey Laczkowski said.

As a stress reliever and to prepare for each match, senior Kyle Tampier does what most of his team mates do.

"I just squeeze a tennis ball and listen to my iPod," Tampier said.

Many of the other players also just listen to music to get themselves in the zone before each match. With the team losing a strong group of seniors, the team will need new players to step up if they would like to repeat their performance and expectations.

Story by Adam Coffman

SCOREBOARD

Hobart	L 1-4	Merrillville	L 2-3
Griffith	W	Chesterton	W 4-1
Lowell	W	Calumet	W 4-1
Morton	W 5-0	Kankakee Valley	W 4-1
Lake Station	W 5-0	Andrean	W 4-1
Valparaiso	L 0-5	Sectional vs. Wheeler	W 4-1
Michigan City	W 5-0		
Wheeler	W 3-2	Sectional vs. Valparaiso	L 0-5
Crown Point	W 3-2		

Portage Offense jumps high to get the rebound. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Lawerance Jones jumps high for the rebound. Portage Indians defeated the Michigan City Wolves. Photo provided by HR Imaging

SCOREBOARD

Highland	L	66-67	Chesterton	W	68-57
Michigan City	L	64-65	Laparte	L	49-77
Hobart	W	57-47	Kankakee Valley	W	59-45
Valparaiso	L	53-32	Lake Central	L	62-68
Chesterton	W	92-91	Michigan City	L	67-59
Lake Central	W	70-62	Crown Point	L	52-77
Crown Point	L	40-74	LaPorte	L	53-52
Merriville	L	43-84	Merriville	L	46-97
Valparaiso	L	46-72	Sectional	L	33-63
Boone Grove	W	60-53	Merriville	L	33-63

Portage Offensive player Skyler Moss rushes past the wolves defense down the court to make the shot. Photo Provided by HR Imaging

Who is your biggest rival?
"The Valparaiso Vikings!"

Cody Crile, 9

Scott Burian , 10

Tony Cheky, 12

Back to dominate the floor

Despite a losing record in both the DAC and in regular games, the team did in fact have a bright outcome. The team ended the season with the most wins they have had since 2004. The team showed signs of improvement the entire season and some players believe it will carry onto next years' squad.

"There were more seniors this year that taught the underclassmen," said senior Lawrence Jones.

With the depth in the team, next years' team will have nowhere to go but up. "With all the big improvements that we established this season, we are defiantly on a great track for next year," said junior Nikola Nacovski.

"There were more seniors this year that taught the underclassmen," Lawrence Jones, senior

The highlight of the season for many of the players had to be the triple overtime win against Chesterton 92-91. With all the improvements the team has made, the team will continue to expand on their record and will hopefully come that much closer to being a force to fear in the DAC and in regular season play.

Story by Adam Coffman

Senior Allen Barrett shoots for the free throw and makes it. Picture By Tori Vaughan

What was your favorite tradition?

"Secret Santa is always fun around the holidays"
-Kayla Burns, 9

"Playing just dance without the Wii."
-Alyssa Tampier, 10

"Eating dinner at Nicki Monahan's house."
-Randi Marshall, 11

"When we hudle up and set goals for the game that day."
-Carley Bermes, 12

Team plagued by closest losses

Close score losses seem to plague the basketball team this year. Despite having a losing record, 7-12 in the regular season and 4-10 in the DAC, the girls showed signs of improvement every game. "We improved a lot. We finally came together as a team to finish up the season," said sophomore Nicki Monahan.

As the team showed signs of improvement, there were some new comers to the team that picked up a lot. "It's scary at first but it was actually a big opportunity," said freshman Sierra Piro. With the departure of seniors Tori Bliss, Carly Bermes, and Ashley Smith, the team will look for the next core of girls to step up their game and fill the shoes left by the seniors.

Story By Adam Coffman

"We improved a lot. We finally came together as a team to finish up the season." Nicki Monahan, 10

Senior Tori Bliss jumps for a shot during a home game against Lake Central. Indians winning 52-39. Photo by Jillian Talley

After winning this years winter homecoming game students gather around and celebrate their victory against Lake Central. Photo by Jillian Talley

Sophomore varsity player Alyssa Tampier dribbles the ball down the court during the homecoming game. Photo by Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Hammond High	W	45-20
East Chicago Central	L	57-60
Crown Point	L	56-74
Andrean	L	45-48
Merrillville	L	71-76
Hobart	L	35-51
Michigan City	L	55-64
Valparaiso	L	49-50
LaPorte	W	46-38
Chesterton	L	59-60
Lake Central	L	43-44
Crown Point	L	
Griffith	W	40-38
Merrillville	L	51-69
Valparaiso	L	37-38
Chesterton	W	54-38
Michigan City	L	38-54
LaPorte	W	48-27
Lake Central	W	52-39

Three Questions for Kevin Elikns

Q. Why do you like swimming?

A. The commordery with the other guys and it's the hardest sport.

Q. How did you get so good at swimming?

A.PPSC Portage Pieces Swim Club

Q. Do you plan on swimming threw the rest of your high school career?

A. Yes, I do.

Swimmers just keep swimming

As fall gave way to winter, training for the swim team gave way to competition. The team finished with a record of 3-7, 1-6 in the DAC. The team had a strong core to the team with a strong group of freshmen making the squad. Despite their record, it does not truly show the improvements and achievements of the team.

"As a team, we shown signs of improvement. I got better and the new members of the team learned a lot," said sophomore Zac Goolsby. Along with the team improving, there were many swimmers that had lifetime best performances. With all the improvements there is an obvious confidence in the future team. "We can probably beat a couple more teams than this year!" said junior Alec Ayres.

"As a team, we shown signs of improvement. I got better and the new members of the team learned a lot." Zac Goolsby, 10

"With the preseason workouts, we will get better and better," said Goolsby.

With so much confidence in the future for the team, the boys plan to be making some pretty big splashes in the DAC next season. With the amount of swimmers that will be coming back next year, they will take what they learned this season and apply it to their preseason work outs and into the new season.

Story By Adam Coffman

A swimmer from Portage swims the backstroke Photo By Jillian Talley

A swimmer comes up for a quick breath of air while swimming the butterfly stroke. Photo By Jillian Talley

Members from the girls swim team cheer on their fellow swimmer.
Photo By Jillian Talley

A Portage diver jumps into the deep end.
Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Merriville	W 126-64
Munster Relay	3rd Place
Laporte	L 79-107
Highland	L 62-117
Michigan City	L 82-103
Laporte Relay	W 117
Wheeler	W 141-41
Highland Invitational	L 61
Crown Point	L 116-70
Valparaiso	L 71-115
Chesterton	L 40-146
Lake Central	L 53-133
DAC at Chesterton	W 170
Sectional at Laporte	W 139

A divers takes her turn at the board at a meet this year. The team ended the season with an overall record of 6-5. Photo by Jillian Talley

A swimmer swims the breast stroke during her race. The team had a 2-5 DAC record. Photo by Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Hobart	110-57 W
Lake Central	46-137 L
Merrillville	116-70 W
LaPorte Relays	4th place
LaPorte	110-86 W
Highland	117-62 W
Michigan City	84-101 L
Calumet	134-29 W
Wheeler	117-59 W
Crown Point	71-121 L
Highland Invite	6th place
Valparaiso	76-109 L
DAC @ LaPorte	5th place
Chesterton	46-139 L
Sectional	3rd place

How do you pump your self up before a meet?

"Usally just listen to my music."
-Jessica Palos, 9

"Listen to music or just mess with the other girls on the team ."
-Lauryn Sanders, 10

"I listen to alot of music."
-Sierra King, 11

"Listen to my music and talk with other team mates to phych eachother up!."
-Christina Delturco, 12

Small achievements make for a memorable season

Not truly reflected in their 6-5 record, 2-5 in the DAC, the girls made huge splashes in the pool this season. There were countless first place finishes, many personal bests, and many girls stepping up to contribute to the effort.

"We started rocky but improved a lot as the season went on," said junior Sierra King.

"The team worked well together and really started to work out," said Mickey Steinburg. As they started to click as a team, the girls put forth a great push into the postseason to see two girls make it to state. Building on what they all learned this year, there is nothing but optimism radiating from the team as a whole.

"The team worked well together and really started to work out." Mickey Steinburg, 10

"I'm looking forward to (next season), and we're going to have an awesome season. We're going to rule the pool!" said King.

There is a strong core of juniors coming back along with a number of underclassmen. With all the depth coming up to lead the team, there is nowhere to go but up for the team. They will no doubt take what they learned this year and apply it to the season ahead and become the swimming juggernaut they know they can be.

Srory By Adam Coffman

A member of the swim team swims freestyle in her race. The team ended their season in sectionals. Photo by Jillian Talley

Tell us your stats

Weight Class- 103
Number of Pins- 17
Fastest Pin- 1st Peroid
-Erik Peek, 9

Weight Class- 119
Number of Pins- not sure
Fastest Pin- 15 seconds
-Dylan Logsdon, 10

Weight Class- 140
Number of Pins- not sure
Fastest Pin- 45 seconds, 1st Peroid
-Zach Thorn, 11

Weight Class- 189
Number of Pins- not sure
Fastest Pin- 1st Peroid
-Josh Wright, 12

Senior Josh Wright pins his opponent and is determined winner of his match. Photo by Jillian Talley

Returning wrestlers continued long tradition of excellence

After finishing with a 13-8 record, 5-1 in the DAC, winning their third straight team sectional championship, sending thirteen guys to regionals and sending a multiple time senior to state again, the wrestling team put together quite the season.
There is no doubt with much of the returning team that there was not much standing in their way when it came to the DAC.

"We all feel pretty good. We have a lot of talent and we're already working hard," junior Tom Duff said.

With all the talent returning next year, the one person everyone seemed to watch was senior Luis Acuna.

"It was an honor to keep the tradition alive." Luis Acuna, 12

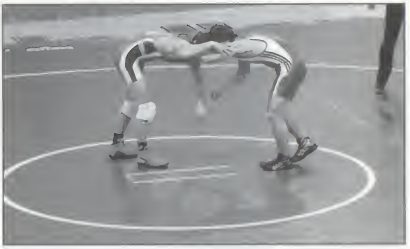
"It was an honor to keep the tradition alive," Acuna said, referring to making it down to state and giving another very strong performance.

"Not only will we make it to state, we'll dominate state. Enough said," proclaimed Duff.

With an attitude like that, the team will look to add on to what they learned this year and not only dominate state, but the DAC and every school that is put in their way.

Story By Adam Coffman

A Portage wrestler goes to take the pin of a Lake Central opponent. Photo By Jillian Talley



A Portage wrestler waits to take the opportunity to go for the pin. Photo By Jillian Talley

Junior Michael Wilson shakes hands with his opponent before their match begins. Michael WIlson has been on the wrestling team for three years. Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Chesterton	W 41-15	Carmel	L 27-36
Dusable	W 80-0	N. Montgom.	W 49-23
St. Ignatious	W 75-6	Perry Merid.	L 0-62
Brother Rice	W 55-14	Warren Cent.	W 36-28
Merrillville	L 27-45	Valparaiso	W 47-15
Lafayette Jeff	W 35-16	Crown Point	L 0-64
Cathedral	L 25-29	Lowell	W 64-15
Westfield	L 32-33	Renssalear	W 57-16
Lawrence N.	L 14-46	LaPorte	W 48-15
Munster	L 28-43	Lake Central	W 35-28
Mich. City	W 51-15	Hobart Invite	2nd Place
New Pal.	W 33-27	Sectional	1st Place
Delphi	W 51-27	Regional	L 26-32
Bloom. South	L 27-34		

Junior Ali Johnson preforms her beam routine. Photo By Jillian Talley

Sophomore Mackenzie Barcelli performs during a meet. Photo by Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Michigan City	W 106-94	Lake Central	W 107-99
LaPorte	L 106-108	Chesterton	L 107-109
Merrillville Invite	1st Place	Lowell	W 108-95
Hobart	W 107-96	South Central	W 108-85
Merrillville	W 106-105	DAC @ Valpo	3rd Place
Valparaiso	L 106-112	Sectional	4th Place

Sophomore Mackenzie Barcelli performs her vault routine. Photo by Jillian Talley

Whats your favorite event to compete in?

"Floor, its more original." - Justine Brasseur, 9

"Floor, it's my best and most fun!" -Mackenzie Barcelli, 10

Vault, it's usally my best event." Ali Johnson, 11

Beam, it's always been my favorite!" Paige Bomba, 12

Ladies show their flexibility

Staying healthy is the most important thing when your sport demands so much of yourself and body. That is exactly what the gymnastics team was able to accomplish after completing a 7-3 season, 4-3 in the DAC. With the team being composed of only nine members, staying health was vital for their success.

"There wasn't too much pressure; it was a lot more fun." Mackenzie Barcelli, 10

Most of them described the team as a family, having great chemistry and helping each other out when they needed to most. "We did very well. We all did it together since we were little," junior Ali Johnson said.

Senior Paige Bomba went as far as to say they acted just like a family would. And as a family, they watched as two of their younger members, sophomore Mackenzie Barcelli and freshman Danielle Solis competeded down at state.

"There wasn't too much pressure; it was a lot more fun," Barcelli said about competing at state.

With the team being so close to each other, there is a definite attitude that they will continue to compete like they did this past season. Both Johnson and Barcelli said they will do pretty well in the season to come.

Story By Adam Coffman

Freshman Julijana Zatorski performed at the fall pep rally for the student body. The poms team performed during halftime of that day's football game as well. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Kiara Goshay and junior Lisa Cruz perform at the halftime of this year's homecoming game. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Nakiel Blackwell performs at for the crowd at the homecoming game. Photo by Jillian Talley

The poms team performs in unison at a basketball game. The team performed at athletic events and participated in their own competitions throughout the year. Photo by Jillian Talley

Show us your *moves!*

Junior Sydney Goettchel shows off one of her favorite dance moves.

Dance like you mean it

With a new intensity coming with the Poms team this year, they sadly received news they would not be able to compete this year. Despite this upsetting setback, they continued to train so they could show they were more than willing to represent their home court. This was the first year the poms team has not been able to compete.

Despite the news of no competition this year, the team stayed together with a core group of girls more than willing to show off what they have. "After we found out we would not be able to compete, we were all pretty upset, but we all knew we needed to finish strong," said junior Lisa Cruz.

"After we found out we would not be able to compete, we were all pretty upset, but we all knew we needed to finish strong," said junior Lisa Cruz.

"Even with the team not being able to compete," said junior Nakiel Blackwell, "we performed at all of the home football and basketball games. " The team has nowhere to go but up after all the bad news this year. There is nothing stopping the poms team from coming out of the gate strong next year!

Story By Adam Coffman

So tells us about those bus rides!

"We talk and listen to music."
-Taylor Colbert, 9

"We sing, bond, and talk."
-Rachel Stewart, 10

"We talk and play games."
-Kayla Mischke, 11

"We listen to music and sing obnoxiously loud."
-Kylee Yeomans, 12

Cheering Indians on to victory in both winter and fall seasons

The cheer season started, as it always does, cheering on our varsity football team under the Friday night lights. With no time for rest, the girls had to transition from the gridiron to the basketball courts where they cheered for our Indians as they took on conference foes and other schools. With the rap up of the basketball season, the squad needs to get into top form as they prepare for the competition part of their season. As they always do, and have always done, the squad did an excellent job representing us for other schools to see.

As the year begins with football, many of the girls prefer to cheer during the football season.

"Football would definitely be my favorite! The people at the games are so exciting and there are so many that are into the game, which makes cheering even better,"said Stephanie Benak.

"My favorite season to cheer in would be football season because there's usually a lot of people there supporting us," said senior Laruen Campbell. Campbell is not the only one that shares that point of view.

"Football would definitely be my favorite! The people at the games are so exciting and there are so many that are into the game, which makes cheering even better," said Stephanie Benak.

Although they were originally scheduled to have two competitions this year, they had to settle for just one. With the time they have before football season starts again, the squad has time to improve on what they think they may need and be that much better for cheer our Indians onto victory in the years to come.

Story By Adam Coffman

Junior Shelby Bailey makes a face for the student body as she attempts to pump them up at the pep rally. The entire squad performed at the rally. Photo by Jillian Talley

Senior Clare Sanders finsihes her dance with a cute facial to the crowd. Clare is this years Cheerleading Captain. Photo By Jillian Talley

Senior Stephanie Benak smiles for the crowd as she cheers on the football team at a game this year. Photo by Jillian Talley

Portage High School cheerleaders get the student body pumped for the big homecoming game against michigan during pep rally, dancing to our Portage fight song. Photo By Jillian Talley

Senior Jake Dixon concentates on reaching far and getting a good distance in long jump. Photo by Collin Czilli

Junior Ryan Crum falls to the mat after doing a great pole vault. Photo by Collin Czilli

SCOREBOARD

Munster	W 87-45
LaPorte	W 71-61
Merrillville	W
Chesterton	W
Crown Point	W
DAC Meet	2nd Place

Junior Mitch Rodriguez hopes to stick the pole vault and get a high jump. Photo by Jillian Talley

Which event practices the most?

"Distance."
-David Clegg, 9

"Shot Put."
-Aaron White, 10

"Sprints."
-Alvin Best,11

"Distance."
-Cameron Eaton, 12

Several competitors make it to state

With a very strong showing of the team at state, there was no doubt in anyone's mind how the track team would compete this year.

"We were going to be a great team on the brink of winning state," senior Vince Fischer said.

There was a different look in the eyes of the team even when they first stepped onto the track. This year was different for all the guys involved with the team.

Even with so many seniors leaving the team, it is still very obvious that the team will be in good hands with so many guys making it to state this past season. Being to state previously has helped, especially as they prepared to compete at state again this year.

"It will help with the mental aspect knowing what is going on there," senior Jake Dixon said.

To junior Joey Little, it was just another meet to prove he is on the brink of a breakthrough.

As many personal best were being broken, it seemed to light a fire under some guys.

"It inspires everybody else to get out and do something," sophomore Rashaan Coleman said.

Much of the team is hoping this same fire and determination will stay with much of the team and carry into next season.

Story by Adam Coffman

Portage boy's runner goes for a strong finish during his race. Photo by Jillian Talley

How do you warm up?

"Crazy balancing warm ups and running."
-Paige Rospierski, 9

"Run around the school."
-Lauryn Sanders, 10

"Run and stretch with my team."
-Abby Trader, 11

"Run a couple of miles and running drills."
-Christina Del Turco, 12

Junior Abigail Trader paces herself in her relay race. Photo By Tori Vaughan

Bliss, Evans travel to state

For senior Tori Bliss, it was not good enough to win state for the fourth year in a row; she needed to break the shot put record in the process.

Bliss was able to complete this task as she competed at state along with teammate and fellow senior Kristy Evans, who ran the 100 meter dash. Both were later informed that they would compete in the All-Star Track Competition.

As the season began, there was no doubt in any of the athlete's minds as to how the season would go.

"Coach A [Head Coach John Arredondo] made sure there was no doubt as to how great we could be," junior Bri Cipich who ran distance events for the team, said. Bliss also believed with the amount of talent they had, there would be no problem scoring copious amounts of points at each meet.

After previously competing at state all throughout her high school career, Bliss knew it would be a great way to improve her own performance.

"It is defiantly good to throw at meets with a high level of competition because it helps you become a better competitor," Bliss said.

The team finished with an impressive 15-7 record, 4-3 in the DAC.

Story by Adam Coffman

Senior Kristi Evans tries to pass up a Wheeler runner during the 100 meter dash
Photo By Tori Vaughan

Senior Tori Bliss gets ready to throw the shot put. Tori had broken school and state records.
Photo by Tori Vaughan

SCOREBOARD

Boone Grove	W	117-20
Wheeler	W	111-20
Mich. City	W	107-23
LaPorte	W	106-26
Merrillville	L	64-68
Chesterton	W	67-65
Huntington	3rd	103.5
Crown Point	W	76-56

Senior Nate Smock swings and follows through, while holding his stance and watches the ball soar. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Senoir Jack Lewis lines himself up at the tee and hopes to putt a hole-in-one. Photo by Tori Vaughan

SCOREBOARD

Griffith	W 155-192	Chesterton	L 175-172
Boone Grove	W 156-157	Crown Point	L 163-163
Tw. Invite	7th 340	LaPorte	L 155-163
Munster	L 174-170	Merrillville	W 166-179
Mich. City	W 157-159	Valparaiso	L 166-149
Valparaiso	L 157-148	Mich. City	W 157-165
K. Val. Invite	4th 381	LC Invite	9th 356
Merrillville	W 163-190	DAC Invite	3rd 325
LaPorte	L 155-175	Chesterton	L 160-155
Crown Point	L 173-175	Lake Central	L 160-155
Lake Central	L 175-161		

Senior Timothy Talley walks with another member of the boys golf team to the next hole to finish the day. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Boys golf shoots for a par

With a second place finish at the Valparaiso sectionals, the boys' golf team came out with a 6-11 record and a trip to regionals for the first time since 2002.

The team had multiple seniors that stepped into the leadership roles that were needed to help the underclassmen when they became unsure or uneasy.

"We started off pretty strong. We left a few strokes on the course that made us lose a couple of matches that we should have taken," said senior Tim Talley, who qualified for regionals with fellow seniors Jack Lewis and Nate Smock.

Junior James Brasseur also agreed that they could have shot more consistently the whole season.

The season was filled with many highlights but with too many close loses. Senior Richard Arredondo thinks the team will be able to improve on this past season and continue on their drive for state next year. With the improvements of this year, the senior players leave with high hopes that the underclassmen players will take that leadership role that they all filled in this past season.

Story by Adam Coffman

Freshman Teppanid Junyanid swings and awaits to see how far the ball was hit. Photo by Tori Vaughan

Do you swing to the left or the right?

"Right Handed" -*Amanda Pogue, 9*

"Fore hand and back hand." -*Bailey Lauritzen, 10*

"Righ Handed." -*Kacie McGuire, 11*

"Right Handed" -*Carley Bermes, 12*

Girls tennis sticks together through thick and thin

Joining the rest of the teams in the spring, the girl's tennis team proved that they can swing with the best.

Finishing with an 8-4 season, 3-3 in the DAC, the team showed improvement all throughout the season. The team still managed to stay close and keep a good chemistry with each other as the season progressed.

Much of the team did not think the record displayed the girl's true effort and talent.

Along with their individual talents, senior Carly Bermes agreed that the chemistry between the players really helped most of the team improve as the season progressed. Because of the improvements, she also believes it will help them as they continue into next season and hopefully farther into the future.

Story By Adam Coffman

Senior Carley Bermes focuses on hitting the ball to her opponent and waits for the return. Photo by Jillian Talley

Junior Stefanie Nanney runs to hit the ball in attempts to win her match. Photo By Jillian Talley

Junior Kacie McGuire concentrates on the ball as she windes back to serve. Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Marquette	W	3-2
Wheeler	W	5-0
Griffith	W	5-0
Crown Point	W	3-2
Highland	L	0-1
Chesterton	L	2-3
Andrean	W	5-0
Lake Central	W	4-1
E.C. Central	W	5-0
Merrillville	W	3-2
Michigan City	L	1-4
LaPorte	L	2-3

How does you coach motivate you to win?

"He just tells us to do our best."
-Alec Coates, 9

"By making us work hard at practice."
-Justin Newcomb, 10

"We all motivate eachother because we want to do good for ourselves and our coach."
-David Jercha, 11

"Gives us great pre-game speeches."
-Bryce Komenda, 12

Portage baseball team works to break their past records

When the baseball team took to the field this season, there was a determination in each player's eyes that was never seen before. It was a look that no one could stand in their way and they are ready to prove they can be the best in the Duneland Athletic Conference. Sadly, the team saw all of their hard work slip away.

"This year has motivated us to play even harder. This year we played, next year, we're doing it live," junior Zach Simmons said.

Doing it live seemed to be the motivation that the team needed after they suffered that heartbreaker.

"It was pretty bad (after the loss); we went through so much from preseason training to the actual season. It ended way too fast for us," junior David Jercha said.

Despite the lose, the future looks bright for many of the seniors that will be continuing onto the college level.

"Playing here has taught me to never give up. I will definitely miss all these guys," senior Tony Cheky said. "The lose was definitely rough. It showed me what I need to fix in my own game."

Although it was a very abrupt end to a very successful campaign, the team will have plenty of players returning, ready and motivated more than ever to get to championship form.

Story By Adam Coffman

Senior Nathan Ramian goes for the bunt. This is Ramian's fouth year playing baseball for Portage. Photo By Jillian Talley

Portage baseball players put their hands in after a good team hudle to pump each other up for the rest of the game. Photo By Jillian Talley

Senior Michael Brunner winds up at the pictures mound. Brunner has been on varsity since he was a freshmen. Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Elkhart	W	13-7
St. Rita	L	12-2
Griffith	L	2-1
Highland	L	5-3
Lowell	W	5-2
Munster	W	7-1
Boone Grove	W	3-0
Mich. City	W	5-2
Crown Point	W	6-1
Lake Central	L	8-4
Merrillville	W	3-1
Gavit	W	17-4
Valparaiso	W	9-3
Chesterton	W	10-0
LaPorte	L	5-8
Mich. City	W	5-7
South Central	W	11-1
Crown Point	W	2-1
Merrillville	W	8-3
Hobart	W	8-7
Lake Central	L	4-14
Hammond Clark	W	5-2
Valparaiso	L	8-9
East Chicago	W	21-6
Chesterton	W	5-1
LaPorte	W	1-0
Hanover	W	15-6
Sectional		
Merrillville	W	
Valparaiso	W	15-7
Crown Point	L	4-1

Senior Sabrina Alaniz readies herself to catch the ball. Alaniz has been the team's catcher for three years. Photo By Jillian Talley

Sophormore Jalise McKnight reaches down to catch the ball. Photo By Jillian Talley

SCOREBOARD

Hebron	W 2-1	LaPorte	L 8-6
Chesterton	L 6-3	Mich. City	W 7-2
LaPorte	L 6-4	Crown Point	W 7-3
Scecina	W 5-0	Merrillville	W 14-0
Hobart	W 7-1	Lake Central	L 4-0
Mich. City	L 12-2	Valparaiso	W 13-0
Crown Point	W 5-0	Lowell	W 13-8
Merrillville	W 13-1	Highland	W 1-0
Lake Central	W 5-4	Munster	W 9-8
Andrean	W 4-3	Harrison	W 10-0
Valparaiso	W 14-0	Mich. City	W 7-3
Chesterton	L 6-5	Chesterton	L 1-0

A Portage Softball player makes her run to steal third base. Photo By Jillian Talley

What's your pump up song?

"Old Music."
-Rachel Zabloudil, 9

"Bruno Mars"
-Brittany Adams, 10

"The show goes on by Lupe Fiasco."
-Nikkie Cloyd, 11

"Do it like Bernie."
-Kristen Ashby, 12

Softball girls hustle to win

After a very successful season with a record of 18-7, 8-6 in the DAC, the team sadly saw all that hard work brought to a very sudden and heartbreaking loss.

Despite the sectional lose, the team was still very optimistic about how they did as a whole. Many of the players said that their record was a very good indicator as to how the team did, but there was still room for improvement.

"We were so much better, but we could have done better in our conference," sophomore Haley Hodges said.

Now that the returning team sees what they need to do to dominate the conference, this past season has taught many of the senior's valuable lessons in their games.

"Being on the team has taught me patience, coming together as a team and major self confidence," senior Sabrina Alaniz said.

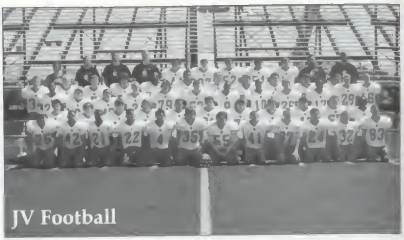
Senior Kristen Ashby agreed and said it made her more relaxed with her playing.

With so many ups for the team this past season, they have nowhere to go but up with their playing. The team will have a lot of experienced players returning to the team next year and many players that will need to quickly find their role on the team.

Story by Adam Coffman

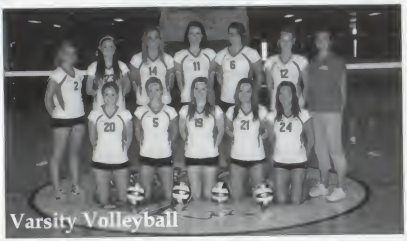
Senior Kylie Someson winds up to pitch during the game. Photo By Jillian Talley

Varsity Football



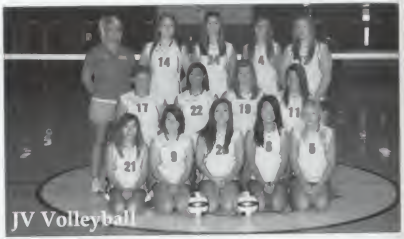
JV Football

Matt Hunter, Kris Knies, Devin Kludt, Brian barnas, Zac Huston, Garrette Austin, Jason Spence, Mike Escoe, Kyle Dranchak, Tony Checky, Jake Dixon, Carson Snyder, Jason Roman, Diondre Griffin, Nick Longeria, Alvin Best, Darion Oren, Othie Freeney, Jeron Blake, Rashaan Coleman, John Hall, Khari Berning, Mike Schiller, Kyle Glover, Tony Rodriguez, Cody SUlt, Dan Reese, Tristan Pearman, Shawn Gunnum, Jorge Espino, Roy Woddard, Jordan Nieto, Matt Albright, Mason Flores, Ennie Balereni, Anthony Ortiz, Will Rospersinski, Johsn Wright, Tom Duff Patrick Doyle, Nick Scott, Justin Givens, Mitchell Hooper, Javari Harris, Kyle Sweeney, Matt Urbanczyk, Zachary Goolbsy, Jacob parrish, Jerath Jopkins, Killian Kidd, Cameron Eaton, Travis Pride, Jake Wright, Eric Rizley, Nathan Pedroza, Jake Wirick, Ross Williams, Aaron White, Joey Little, Ty Crawford, Kevin Hinkle, Alex Marsh, Austin Edwards, Christian Colon, Tyler Brown, Latrell Berning, Deandre Jackson, Devonte Hudson, Vince Fisher



Varsity Volleyball

ROW 1: Tina Golden, Kacie McGuire, Ali Johnson, Brittany Doll, Randy Marshall ROW 2: Ari Cummings, Carli Piro, Alicia Ciecielski, Haley Snyder, Jessica Someson, Caitlyn Byrd, Coach Erin Rumley

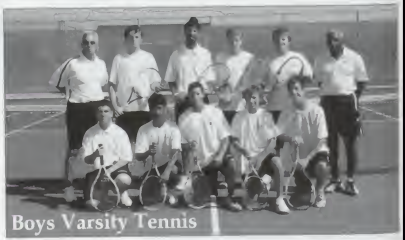


JV Volleyball

ROW 1: Mandy Haupt, Justine Brasseur, Skylar Simko, Kaley Liang, Bri Gibson ROW 2: Hayley Hodges, Jade McKnight, Morgan Kilgore, Michaela Miller ROW 3: Coach Casey Kornaki, Chloe Garda, Brittany Adams, Kate Sosa, Alyssa Ronk

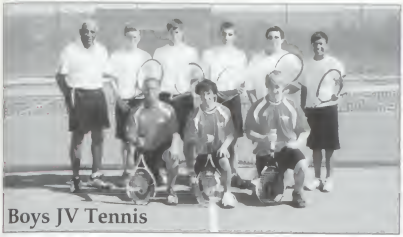
Freshmen Volleyball

ROW 1: Rachel Ortiz, Ariella Pearman, Devin Valpatic, Stephanie Galey, Mackenzie Jones ROW 2: Coach Katie Jankowicz, Claire Pardo, Alysa Wozniak, Kaitlin Moore, Jessy Marshall, Coach Stephanie Tokarski



Boys Varsity Tennis

ROW 1: Zack Lundy, Parth Patel, Jeff Craig, Patrick Derr, Joey Todd ROW 2: Coach Gary Hayes, Trent Doud, Shubakarman Multani, Joey Lizkowski, Kyle Tampier, Coach Joe White

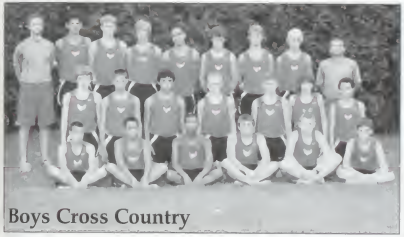


Boys JV Tennis

ROW 1: Xavier Gilliam, Sean Salazar, Tyler Soberg ROW 2: Coach Joe White, Mark Eierman, Jeff McElfresh, Zach Smith, John Craig, John Fannin

Girls Golf

ROW 1: Autumn Stevenson, Mackenzie Barcelli, Clarissa Blazak, Jackie Arnold, Gabby Ziulkowski ROW 2: Coach Andrew Elderkin, Lauren Murray, Emily Dominguez, Jessica Morris, Sarah Dienes, Coach Marian Pack



Boys Cross Country

ROW 1: Kyle Forney, Dustin Balboa, AJ Laramie, Tyler Swets, Zack Swets, Lucas Sullivan ROW 2: Lucas Peksenak, Tom Janes, Arthur Anguiano, Jacob Thiecher, Tim Huber, Ryan Hayes, Anthony Best ROW 3: Coach Tom Erickson, Maricio Martinez, David Clegg, Corey Lamping, Robert Blackwell, Ross Falk, Chris Klenk, Dylan Logsdon, Coach John Arredondo

Girls Cross Country

ROW 1: Janee Escobedo, Danielle Solis, Megan Ambler, Paige Pizer, Sierra King ROW 2: Jennifer Stone, Terra Norman, Megan Cassidy, Natalia Cruz, Rachel Foreman, Salina McConnell ROW 3: Christina Delturco, Ahley Sass, Bri Cipich, Abigail Trader, Paige Mulle, Alexis McKee, Keanna Crum

Boys Varsity Soccer

ROW 1: Louis Samaniego, Zak Fleming, Greg Prohl, Christian Cherry, Ricardo Silva, Alex Carrasco ROW 2: Gerald Renzino, Dean Anderson, Alex Becker, Nate Johnson, Derik Novina, Donovan Cole, Brendon Swindle ROW 3: Coach Todd Strom, Logan Cole, Michael Brunner, Nate Johnston, Ben Dvorscak, Coach Brett Gorden, Coach Arthur Safstrom

Boys JV Soccer

ROW 1: Victure Mendoza, Cage Taylor, Austin Lee, Omar Tinoco, Colin Graber, Taylor Felinski ROW 2: Eric Anderson, Joe Beckham, Oscar Tinoco, Geoffrey Marcotte, Danny Andersen, Justin Hill ROW 3: Coach Brett Gorden, Kody Kuypers, Mitch Rodriguez, Nikola Nacovski, Ryan Crum, Coach Todd Strom, Coach Arthur Safstrom

Girls Varsity Soccer

ROW 1: Michelle Figueroa, Annie Stronzak, Abby Clark, Michelle Hance, Katie Bylak, Lauren Zack ROW 2: Ashley Smith, Carly Bermes, Ashley Hallmen, Andrea Hallmen, Kristen Ashby ROW 3: Coach Amanda Isakson, Nikki Monahan, Natalia Nakofski, Tori Bliss, Abby Hargarten, Emily Szysmanski

Girls JV Soccer

ROW 1: Courtney Hayes, Brooke Jackson, Stephanie Trajceski, Charissa Leach, Tracy Flores, Simona Trajesky, Heather Figueroa ROW 2: Hannah Medina, Ashley Huckleburg, Rachel Gonzalez, Emily Albee, Shelby Bryniarski, Heather Harrowood, Haley Welp ROW 3: Coach Mike Sopko, Krista Denvit, Christina Figueroa, Shelby Stanley, Kaitlyn Adkins, Crystal Castrejon, Nicki Ruiz, Amanda Pogue

Varsity Boys Basketball

ROW 1: Allen Barrett, Tony Cheky, Miguel Negroni, Anton Fentress ROW 2: Jacob Bothwell, Brandon Hall, Tristan Pearman, Skyler Moss, Cody Logsdon, Lawrence Jones

Boys JV Basketball

ROW 1: Joey Roman, Anthony Samano, Jeff McElfresh, Tyler Gonzalez, Peter Psomadelis ROW 2: Derik Novina, Luke Kizer, Tyler Davis, Nikola Nakovski, Gage Pearman, CJ Haupt, Scott Burian

Boys Freshmen Basketball

ROW 1: Manager Rachel Santos, Lorenzo Wells, Dejuan Nelson, Dustin Balboa, Blake Logsdon, Andre Joseph, Manager Michelle Comerford ROW 2: John Valez, Cody Crile, Zack Chandler, Michael Latanzi, James Powell, Cody Maldenodo ROW 3: Nate Johnson, Jacob Bearss, David Clegg, Mauricio Martinez, Bradley Larson, Cameron Vaughan, Brandon Binns

Girls Varsity Basketball

ROW 1: Ashley Smith, Alyssa Tampier, Alex Bustos, Nicki Monahan, Sierra Piro, Randi Marshall, Carly Bermes ROW 2: Angela Buchanan, Stephanie Upton, Hannah Glos, Heather Zengler, Tori Bliss, Alexis Johnson, Paige Mulle

Girls JV Basketball

ROW 1: Julissa Martinez, Jalise McKnight, Alex Bustos, Randi Marshall, Christina Stilp, Allison Graveline ROW 2: Sierra Piro, Jade McKnight, Paige Mulle, Alexis Johnson, Stephanie Upton, Ashley X, Salina McConnell

Girls Freshmen Basketball

ROW 1: Mercedes Rosario, Mandy Haupt, Stephanie Galey, Jory Piner, Natalia Nakovski, Mackenzie Jones, Kristen Garfias ROW 2: Alexandria Abasi, Jamari Miranda, Mariah Wright, Kaitlin Moore, Taylor Ailes, Paige Pizer ROW 3: Coach Lisa Hayes, Lauren Thompson, Natalia Nacovski, Keanna Crum, Kayla Burns, Jomari Miranda, Coach Tammy Barragan

Boys Swimming and Diving

ROW 1: Tommy Janes, Jeremy Mendoza, Tim Huber, Patrick Sobokowski, Justin Whitney, Cor Branner, Alex Shrierer, Lucas Sullivan, Xavier Rosales, Justin Fannin ROW 2: Coach John Zack, Zac Goolsby, Alec Ayers, Cole Ozbolt, Nick Eftenoff, Kevin Elkins, Jacob Grimsley, David Olivo, Chadd Purcell, Eric Gurrola, Billy Wirth, Coach Rob Lowe ROW 3: Joey Todd, Nick Longoria, Garrett Piers, Griffin Medved, Matt Bliss, Louis Coleman, Casey Newcomb, Dakota Callender, Alex Rosales, Brandon Crosby

Girls Swimming and Diving

ROW 1: Elizabeth Saylor, Christina Delturco, Erika McEwan, Ashley Burbee, Leanne Ceasar ROW 2: Ebony Powell, Patty Motta, Hannah Dorman, Alexis Reddington, Alycia Soto, Jordan Simmons, Jessica Palos, Courtney Joseph, Terra Norman ROW 3: Lauren Haddox, Michalean Spencer, Lauren Sanders, Sierra King, Jordan Paker, Tayler Bayer, Clarissa Walkowiak, Dominique Turney, Mickey Steinburg

Wrestling

Andrew Djordjevich, Andrew Ornona, Carlton Tailon, Chris Russell, Cody Holden, Darren Svitko, Deveon Hegwood, Devin Turney, Dilan Kettwig, Dominick Guzzino, Dustin Samano, Drake Samano, Eric Peek, Iniko Dixon, Jeff Henry, Johnny Duque, Louis Escobedo, Matt Stull, Mike Delgado, Mykel Cosby, Nathan Swier, Travis Williams, Danny Roach, Dylan Logsdon, Evonte Jones, Jacob Erdelak, Jacob Wright, Jason Fine, Jason Spence, Jose Aguilera, Julian Torres, Marcus Appleberry, Michael Galvan, Nathan Longstreet, Nick Longstreet, Roberto Espinosa, Stephon Wilkins, Tim Ford, Tyler Blair, Xavier Orta, Alex Carasco, Zach Thorn, Logan Fischer, Mike Wilson, Tom Duff, Angel Encinas, Anthony Espinosa, Brandon Coppinger, Vince Fisher, Irving Hernandez, Jesse Duque, Josh Wright, Luis Arana, Paul Shane, Tyler Coleman, Vince Fisher

Gymnastics

ROW 1: Madaline Solis, Ali Johnson, Mackenzie Barcelli, Breanna Caudwell, Leah Streetman ROW 2: Valerie Black, Justine Brasseur, Paige Bomba, Lyndsey Cunningham, Danielle Solis

Cheerleaders

ROW 1: Bre Beal, Alexis Weber ROW 2: Rachel Stewart, Bre Kizer, Jenna Alaniz, Amber Kizer, Brandie Lackomic ROW 3: Tayler Colbert, Erica Gaffney ROW 4: Kayla Mischke, Lauren Campbell, Ashley Barnes, Stephanie Benak, Shelby Bailey, Sabrina Alaniz, Kylee Yeomas, Emily Jahoda, Claire Sanders

Poms

ROW 1: Sydney Goettchel, Brittany Winters, Lisandra Cruz ROW 2: Alexandra Pratl, Nakiel Blackwell, Desiree Garnett ROW 3: Sara Quiroz, Julianna Zatorski, Brooke Wiseman, Mackenzie Widner

Varsity Baseball

ROW 1: Tony Cheky, Nathan Ramian, Zach Thorn, Gabe Acevedo, Tyler Albee, Zach Simmons, Travis Marsh, Andrew Brown, Allen Barrett ROW 2: Coach Bob Dixon, Jeremy Sinkus, David Jercha, Michael Brunner, Cody Jackson, Coach Tim Pirowski, Bryce Komenda, Sam Puchalski, Chris Bruno, Kris Springman, Coach Bob Devine

JV Baseball

ROW 1: Patrick Derr, Austin Lee, Tyler Soberg, Lyndsey Cunningham, Brandon Gardenhire, Brad Stemple, Peter Psomadelis ROW 2: Riley Thompson, Tyler Gonzalez, Alex Heimberg, Eric Mesarch, Justin Newcomb, Steven Saylor ROW 3: Tyler Kniola, Anthony Samano, Conner Haupt, Kyle Sweeney

Varsity Softball

ROW 1: Morgan Eastridge, Kristen Ashby, Raquel Cervantes, Rachel Ortiz, Natalie Korpak ROW 2: Sabrina Alaniz, Jalise McKnight, Haley Hodges, Ariel Rozwara, Shelby Meints, Danielle Lynch ROW 3: Coach Jay Hodges, Nikki Cloyd, Kylie Someson, Alexis Johnson, Salina McConnell, Jena Alaniz, Coach Gil Arzola, Coach Brooke Platt

JV Softball

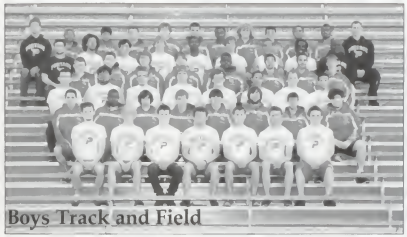
ROW 1: Bri Gibson, Katie Richardson, Taylor Mora, Cloe Carda, Hannah Hillsley, Katie Peksenak, Sadie Draves, Megan Statler ROW 2: Coach Lisa Hayes, Lauren Murray, Lexi Brock, Rachel Smock, Heather Zengler, Stephanie Upton, Brittany Adams, Coach Gary Warwick

Boys Golf

ROW 1: Paul Shane, Teppanid Junyanid, Top Pronpudpong, Nick Lewis, Albert Shane ROW 2: Collin Graber, James Brasseur, Tyler Coleman, Timothy Talley, Jordan Henson, Mark Mason ROW 3: Andrew Elderkin, Nathaniel Smock, Jack Lewis, Richard Arredondo, Coach Richard Kretz

Girls Tennis

ROW 1: Tanika Fink, Amanda Haupt, Michelle Comerford, Amanda Pogue, Gabrielle Ziulkowski, Kaley Liang, Jada Gilliam, Rachel Santos ROW 2: Stefanie Nanney, Sidney Hawkins, Alyssa Tampier, Patty Mota, Autumn Stevenson, Carly Bermes, Lauren Zack, Stephanie O'Drobinak ROW 3: Coach Joe White, Abigail Clark, Kacie McGuire, Lauren Wilk, Abigail Hargarten, Bailey Lauritzen, Caitlyn Byrd, Kayla Allen, Mariah Wright, Arielle Cummings



Boys Track and Field

ROW 1: Jeremy Anderson, Dylan Logsdon, Ryan Crum, Casey Newcomb, Dakota Callender, Cole Ozbolt, John Whitney ROW 2: Emilio Blackwell, Othie Freeney, Max Zmija, David Clegg, Tom Duff, Clinton White, Jeff Craig, Travis Williams ROW 3: Jeremy Mendoza, Joey Little, Mitch Hooper, Logan Fischer, Jake Wright, Robert Blackwell, Cameron Peters, Joey Sandoval ROW 4: Tim Huber, Alex McGrath, Vince Fischer, Mitch Rodriguez, Aaron White, Jason Roman, Marcus Appleberry, Austin Hakes ROW 5: Coach John Kappes, Alvin Best, Luis Escabedo, Florian Frenzel, DeAndre Jackson, Corey Lamping, Roshan Coleman, TJ Skelton, Coach Earl Coleman ROW 6: Coach Tom Erickson, Detrek Sugsg, John Fannin, Michael Delgado, Cameron Eaton, Alex Sanchez, Anthony Freeman, Luke Peksenak, Tyler Swets, Kyle Glover, Jeron Blake, Coach Nick Haas NOT PICTURED: Diontre Simpson, Hashim Simpson, Jake Dixon, Lorenzo Wells, Nate Workman, Gemel Tribble, Aurellio Magallen, Tyrone Jackson, Kendall Glover, Dustin Balboa, Anthony Best, Jeff Marcotte, Ryan Hayes, Deveon Hegwood, Kris Kranick, Joe Rodriguez, Tom Janes, Zack Swets, Jake Thielbar

Girls Track and Field

ROW 1: Kristy Evans, Cassie Griffen, Rebecca Ordway, Brooke Jackson, Paige Rospierski, Rachel Gonzalez, Halee Welp, Paige Pizer, Jasmine Johnson, Alyssa Bogolin, Kelsey Canterbury, Mackenzie Barcelli ROW 2: Natalia Cruz, Hannah Medina, Dominique Turney, Megan Cassidy, Krysta Zygowicz, Christina Delturco, Jawanza Woods, Amber Rodewig, Krisara Starke, Niki Raskova, Lauryn Sanders, Bri Angle, Amanda Pollock ROW 3: Arissa Salas, Heather Harwood, Shakiea Boyd, Shyann Sims, Nikki Thomas, Mercedes Rosario, Tina Taalaibakova, Janee Escobedo, Ebony Powell, Mackenzie Jones, Olivia Forrester, Crysta Crews, Whitney White, Coach John Arredondo ROW 4: Coach Jay White, Katie Bylak, Allie Weiser, Danielle Randle El, Jade McKnight, Cherrelle Milledge, Abagail Trader, Tori Bliss, Keanna Crum, Ashley Sosbe, Katie Engel, Ali Johnson, Kayla Burns, Bri Cipich, Coach Gretchen Hargarten

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Free

For some students, being at school was their chance to **relax**. Some classes were fun and helped students **clear** their minds. With the variety of classes offered at PHS, students had **no restrictions** when choosing classes for their schedules.

Senior Jackie Huber works hard on a bench she's been painting for her senior art portfolio class. She choose the famous painting, The Wave by artist Katsushika Hokusai, to recreate. Photo by Kaite Mendez

Junior Emily Oerman hangs back during the dance how in period of a dance in her history class. During the dance, Oerman's teacher, Catherine Nye, wore an authentic historic dress that her mother made. Photo by Jillian Talley

Juniors Donovon Cole, Ali Johnson, Kacie McGuire and David Jercha worked on a lab during their A.P. Biology class. Photo by Flo Frenzel

Senior Joey Todd readies himself to return the ball during warm-ups for a tennis match against LaPorte on Sept. 9. Photo by Jillian Talley

Seniors Ashley Brinneh and Kristin Kalch work on projects for their Drawing 2 class. Their assignment was to draw an object as they see it in their mind. Photo by Flo Frenzel

In memory of

Gabriel 'Gabe' Myers

Gabe Myers passed away on Tuesday, March 1. He was a senior ready to graduate with the Class of 2011.

Gabe was a member of the Video Production and Media Studies class at the Porter County Career Center. He played football and baseball, participated in the World Wiffleball Classic and served as a peer tutor.

Gabe's mother and brother accepted his honorary diploma at the commencement ceremony on Sunday, June 13.